

REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS OF MELROSE,

FOR THE

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1878.



BOSTON :

BABB & STEPHENS, 79 WATER STREET.

1878.

TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1877-8.

Selectmen, Overseers of the Poor and Overseers of Highways.

WALTER BABB.

HENRY G. FIELDS.

NATHAN D. BLAKE.

Town Clerk.

JOHN LARRABEE.

Treasurer.

GEORGE NEWHALL.

Collector.

ANSEL B. PIERCE.

Assessors.

JOHN R. JONES.

JAMES C. CURRIER.

CHARLES T. STEVENS.

Water Commissioners.

JOSEPH R. SIMONDS	.	.	.	Term expires 1880.
W. IRVING ELLIS	.	.	.	" " 1879.
JOSEPH D. WILDE	.	.	.	" " 1878.

School Committee.

THOMAS B. PECK, <i>Chairman,</i>	.	.	Term expires 1878.
LAFAYETTE BURR, <i>Secretary,</i>	.	.	" " 1880.
MOSES S. PAGE	.	.	" " 1880.
MISS PHOEBE A. NORRIS	.	.	" " 1879.
MRS. MARIA W. CURRIER	.	.	" " 1878.
MRS. ANN M. KUNHARDT	.	.	" " 1878.

Engineers of the Fire Department.

ARTHUR E. WORTHEN, *Chief.*

JULIAN M. THOMAS, *Clerk.*

ROSWELL W. CHANDLER.

Trustees of the Public Library.

FREDERIC KIDDER.	ELBRIDGE H. GOSS.	CHARLES C. BARRY.
HANNAH LYNDE.	ADDIE A. NICHOLS.	

TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1877-8.

Representative in the General Court.

W. IRVING ELLIS.

Auditors.

JOHN R. NORTON.

FRANK E. ORCUTT.

Constables.

ANSEL B. PIERCE.

JOSEPH HOLBROOK.

HENRY C. RICHARDSON.

HENRY B. NEWHALL.

Measurer of Wood and Bark.

SETH E. BENSON.

Weigher of Hay and Coal.

JAMES D. LITTLEFIELD.

Surveyor of Lumber.

GEORGE M. BRIGHAM.

Committee on Cemeteries.

GEO. NEWHALL.

NATHANIEL HOWARD.

JOHN LARRABEE.

Field Drivers.

OTIS HOWARD.

HORACE W. CUSHMAN.

FRANK GIBBONS.

Lock-Up and Pound Keeper.

HENRY G. FIELDS.

Police Officers.

A. B. PIERCE.

H. W. CUSHMAN.

JOSEPH HOLBROOK.

HENRY ROBINSON.

H. C. RICHARDSON.

FRANCIS E. BARBER, JR.

H. B. NEWHALL.

THOMAS E. DRAKE.

J. D. LITTLEFIELD.

H. G. FIELDS.

E. H. YOUNG.

REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

FELLOW CITIZENS :

The close of another financial year imposes upon us the issue of the usual reports, which cannot fail to be of interest to every citizen who has the welfare of the town at heart.

We find that as our town has increased, so have the labors of your officials in a corresponding ratio. During the past year it seems to have been thought by some that the Board of Selectmen were the proper parties to listen to all the troubles that flesh is heir to. We have exercised a large patience, given all a respectful hearing, and where we have had nothing else to give, have always given good advice, which we trust has been heeded.

The year just closed has been a hard one financially. Business men, of which our town is largely composed, have been struggling for even an existence. Every prudent man has curtailed to the last degree, and it is right that towns, as well as individuals, in view of these facts, should keep their expenditures within the smallest possible compass.

The appropriations for 1877 were much less than previous years, but by a judicious distribution they have mostly served the purpose. The hard times have largely increased the number of worthy poor, and unless business soon revives, the number must necessarily increase. We have given employment to our own poor upon the highways in preference to others, and in this way have saved some from calling upon the town for assistance who otherwise would have been obliged to.

The placing of the highways under our charge bequeathed us quite an additional source of labor. We have endeavored to put our

streets in a good condition, and feel that every dollar expended was placed "where it would do the most good."

We respectfully ask your careful attention to the detailed statement of the various departments, for from this more than anything else, can the intelligent citizen form an opinion of the necessary appropriations to carry us through the year upon which we are just entering.

POOR.

We have been conscious most of the year that this fund was being more rapidly expended than we had anticipated at its commencement. The result has been that on the first of January we had nearly or quite exhausted our appropriation. We have sought to remedy any evils that might exist under our system; we have scanned most rigidly the rights and claims presented for assistance, have determined all settlements as promptly as possible, and charged to their respective municipalities all who were not legally our own. We are aware that charitably disposed persons are liable to be imposed upon by the criminal classes, who will crowd themselves upon us, and make loud demonstrations of their rights and claims for help, and thus crowd out the more modest and worthy; but we believe that there has been no lack of vigilance on the part of your executive officer, and that, in short, the duties of the board have been faithfully performed. The increased expenditure over that of the preceding year, has been caused mainly by two families, who were thrown upon us, one by the husband's desertion of his wife and six children (one an infant), and the other who was committed to the County House for a crime, leaving a wife and four children, one of which was an infant. Sickness by scarlet fever, and one death, causing physicians and burial expenses, which, with the other bills for the support of these two families, have reached nearly to six hundred dollars.

We have to charge the destitution and suffering of these families, together with many others who call upon us for aid, to the vice of

intemperance. In many instances the man is shut up for drunkenness, or for crime caused by it, for months, and sometimes for years, while their families eke out a miserable subsistence on the temporary aid for food, fuel and shelter, furnished by the town, and we question the propriety of punishing, to such an extent, not so much the drunkard as his wife and children, instead of the person who sold him the liquor and made him drunk, and who profits by it, while we have to support him. We think such persons ought to be made responsible, in some way, for the damage sustained by the public, in consequence of their traffic. We are sorry to say that the same causes for increase of the poor, which we reported one year since, have not ceased to exist with the close of this year, but continue to a greater extent. Steadily increasing numbers call upon us for aid, with the general complaint that they never saw such hard times, and that they are unable to get work at any price. It is a serious matter, that men must be permitted to lead idle lives, who would bend cheerfully to the decree that "man shall eat bread by the sweat of the brow." We commend the policy adopted by those who employ only their own settled citizens upon their public works. In all the departments of labor, they have been careful in this respect to protect themselves and thus help their own adopted citizens. We notice by the incoming reports of several places, where this course has been followed, that their poor expenses have been twenty per cent. less this year, than for preceding years. We have many persons, resident in Melrose, who were attracted here in former years by the prosperity of our town in search of a market for their labor, which was the only riches of which they were possessed. These have gained settlements here, and are reluctant to break them by removing elsewhere. We think that it would be wise to employ this class of persons upon the work of the town, and that all contracts for necessary work should be shaped to this policy. We know that true riches lie in the bosom of the soil, and that instead of remaining in the crowded and overworked centres, where the labor supply has become so much greater than the demand, that

to scatter out into the farming districts would be the true remedy for the difficulty of self support for the working classes ; and we would recommend to every laboring man in this town, to borrow or lease a small piece of land on which to employ the leisure time he is *sure* to have from the odd jobbing which is now his sole dependence. Drive the ploughshare through the lands lying useless in our suburbs, and through the corner lots "that are waiting for a rise," and it will give to each poor family in this town a vegetable crop that will go far towards its support for the year.

The whole number who have received more or less aid for the past year, has been one hundred and sixty-six. Of this number twenty-six are adult males and forty-five are adult females. The remaining ninety-five are children who are dependent upon the above for support.

Of those aided, one hundred and twenty-six have legal settlements in this town.

Twenty-three have no known settlements and are marked to the State. Seventeen are cases acknowledged by other towns and cities.

There are five in the Hospital for the Insane, an increase of one this year.

The number who have been fully supported for the year is sixteen. There have been five hundred and thirty-one tramps lodged in the lock-up, which is double the number of any preceding year. As this evil is increasing, we would respectfully suggest to those citizens who are always hospitable and kindly disposed towards the unfortunate, that to feed tramps when they apply is really a misapplied charity, which encourages indolence, and calls them into town in greater numbers.

It will be seen that the department is growing more important each year, which is liable to continue with the general depression of business throughout the country ; and that we must be prepared to meet the poor and needy though they be in increased numbers, in the kindly spirit which we would desire to be shown to us in like circumstances. While we regret that there has been an overdraft

from the treasury, we repeat that we are conscious of having done our duty under the law, not only to those aided, but to those who are taxed for it.

ARMORY.

Our last report closed pending the decision of the Committee on Claims, at the State House, upon our petition for the reimbursement of the sum of \$343.40 deficit in Armory rent.

We are now able to report that our claim was allowed by the committee, and the money paid over to our treasurer.

WIDENING OF FRANKLIN STREET.

At the last annual meeting the sum of \$300.00 was appropriated for the widening of this street, opposite the head of Vinton street. The greater part of this work is accomplished only by blasting of solid rock, necessarily a slow process, and one that does not give such prolific results as the mere excavating of earth embankments.

The contract was given to A. W. Lynde, by the days' work, and from careful observation, we are satisfied that the money was faithfully expended, and the most possible work done for the appropriation.

We would recommend that not less than \$300.00 be appropriated for a continuance of the work.

WIDENING OF FOREST STREET.

On the first of May last, an order was received from the County Commissioners, compelling us to widen Forest street from the Malden line to its terminus, to conform to the width already built by the town of Malden. Proposals were invited and the contract awarded to P. R. Ellis, the lowest bidder, for \$385.00. Extra filling, not called for by the contract, carried the amount to \$400.00. The work was done to the acceptance of all parties and will require an appropriation to meet the expense.

FUEL FOR TOWN PURPOSES.

Encouraged by the saving of expense in former years by reason of inviting competition for furnishing fuel to be used by the town in all its departments, the contract was awarded the past year to Messrs. Bugbee & Barrett, the lowest bidders, who have furnished the best coal at a price which defied competition.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.

In accordance with the new statute, we have caused to be prepared a Register of all the legal voters of the town with their names in full, occupation, and the street in which they reside, so that hereafter all names must first be placed upon the Register. This requirement was evidently intended to prevent fraudulent voting in cities, and its tendency is to the purification of the ballot, but in our well regulated and quiet community, where every citizen is jealous of the purity of the ballot, it seems to be an unnecessary adjunct.

STATE AID.

During the dark days of the Rebellion, as an incentive to recruiting, it was promised those that enlisted that their families should be cared for.

We have endeavored to afford the promised relief to all who come within the provisions of the rule laid down for our guidance.

So far as we have been able, this promise has been inviolably kept, and the State has cheerfully refunded the amount.

PERAMBULATION OF TOWN LINES.

On the 7th of May last we met the Selectmen of Malden and made a thorough inspection of the bounds and monuments marking the line separating the towns. We found them all in position, and properly marked, as will appear more fully in the joint report on file in the Town Clerk's office.

TOWN HALL BUILDING.

No town can boast of better accommodations, either for the purposes of a public hall, or for offices for its officers. With the return of better times there will be a greater demand for the Hall, and, consequently, increased receipts. Every department of the town is now in possession of comfortable quarters within its walls. During the year the trusses in the roof which had shrunk some, have been firmly set and materially strengthened. This building is the pride of, and ornament to, the town; but, in our judgment, will never be complete until its grounds are properly grassed, and good concrete walks encircle it within its folds. We think the town should set an example to others, by beautifying and making passable the grounds and approaches to its own public buildings.

DRAINAGE.

We have caused L. pond brook to be cleaned out its entire length, and all obstructions removed; besides this, several smaller jobs have been attended to in different portions of the town, all looking to the relief of those who have suffered from defective drainage.

ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTS.

The following additional street lamp posts have been set and the lamps on them kept lighted during the year:

Vinton street,	nearly opposite C. H. Isburgh.
Herbert	“ corner of Myrtle.
Florence	“ opposite Hurd street.
Main	“ near Mary Lynde's residence.
Summer	“ “ C. C. Goss' residence.
Poplar	“ “ Harry Hunt's.
Franklin	“ opposite Gen. Boyd's.
Baxter	“ “ Mr. White's.
Lebanon	“ corner Third.

Of these posts, the first named five are iron and the rest are wood.

HIGHWAYS.

By a vote at the annual meeting, the Selectmen were made surveyors of highways; in performance of this duty we made a contract with Mr. James Marshall, as overseer, to have charge of the laborers, and to report at every regular meeting of the board; by so doing we have been kept advised of the locality of work done, and are able to say that a full equivalent has been received for every dollar expended.

We believe that good streets and sidewalks are the elements that are more needed at the present time than aught else, to sustain the good impressions that are being made by those who come among us; it is a real luxury to drive over a well kept street, and a still greater luxury in wet and muddy weather to find a good concrete walk beneath our feet. We hope that in the immediate future more attention will be paid these improvements, for in no other way can a small amount be expended yearly to so good an advantage to the town.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

This department is in good condition, working in perfect harmony, with good apparatus. We have been highly favored during the past year, no fires of any considerable importance having occurred. All alarms have been promptly responded to. The coolness and good judgment of our firemen in the management of fires has not only won the confidence of our citizens, but, together with our good facilities for obtaining water, has materially reduced the rates of insurance.

TOWN BY-LAWS.

We were in hopes to have been able to print the new By-Laws as amended, in this report, but they have been returned disapproved by the Superior Court, on account of the section in relation to truancy.

STREET LIGHTS.

Next to good streets and sidewalks probably there is no greater luxury than well lighted streets. Crime seeks the cover of darkness, and good lights are, in a great measure, a preventative of crime. The Globe Gas Light Co., of Boston, have been furnishing our light for the past five years in a satisfactory manner. There is no system of lighting *entirely* free from complaint; but when we consider the economy, the quality of the light, the care of the lamps, the efforts to please always distinguishing the management of this company, we feel constrained to say that we know of no way whereby the town can be better served than by a continuance of the present system.

NEW HOSE HOUSE.

The Selectmen were appointed a committee to provide comfortable quarters for Wyoming Hose Co., No. 2.

In accordance with the provisions of the above vote, we have fitted up, in good style, rooms in the northerly portion of Masonic building on Main street. In this new location the company get a good start in any direction, and appreciate the change.

We have taken a lease of these premises from L. W. Gilman, for the term of five years from April 1, 1877, at the rate of \$150 per annum.

SUITS.

The case of *Malden v. Melrose*, for the support of the Waitt Bros., paupers, was reached at the close of the March term of the Superior Court. The jury, by direction of the Court, found a verdict for the town of Melrose (defendant). The plaintiff's counsel carried it to the Supreme Court on points of law, which were fully argued at the January law term of the Supreme Court. At this writing no opinion has been given by the Court.

The case of *David L. Taylor v. the town of Melrose*, for defective drainage, was tried at the June term of the Superior Court.

The trial lasted nearly four days and was exhaustive in character. The verdict was for the town of Melrose (defendant).

On the 29th of October was commenced the case of George Wm. Phillips, administrator of the Dyer Estate *v.* the towns of Melrose, Malden, Boston and Maine R. R., for damages caused by the removal of the dam at Malden, for the purpose of drainage. This case was tried before a sheriff's jury, in the Court House at Cambridge, and lasted five days, resulting in a disagreement of the jury.

A second trial of the case was ordered for Dec. 27. A new jury was empanelled and considerable new evidence introduced. Every point in the case was closely contested and ably argued. The verdict was for the defendants.

This case, which has been before the Courts, County Commissioners and town meetings for so many years, has at last, let us hope, reached a final conclusion, the justice of which is apparent to every body at all conversant with the facts.

The case of G. L. Williams, assignee of D. L. Taylor *v.* town of Melrose, came up at the December term.

The cause of this action was substantially the same as in the previous case of Taylor, the only difference being that damages were asked for a period covering the time between the years 1871-74 prior to the bankruptcy of Taylor. The counsel for the town filed a demurrer to the plaintiff's declaration, which was sustained by the Court and judgment given for the town, defendant, thus closing the last case against the town and leaving it entirely free from litigation, so far as we are aware.

These cases have required no little of our time and attention to bring them to so satisfactory a conclusion. In every case, it will be noticed, that we have been acting on the defence, never being the aggressor. We have tried to do for the town what we should individually have felt compelled to do under like circumstances for ourselves, and are satisfied that our labor has not been in vain.

Col. F. S. Hesselstine, counsel for the town, deserves mention for the earnest and successful manner in which he conducted all of the above cases.

CONCLUSION.

It will be found by an examination of the report that our finances are in the best possible condition.

Every appropriation, if we except the poor, who *must* be fed, and possibly the highway, will be found with credits to their account—and this with very much reduced amounts appropriated. We have endeavored by every means in our power to reduce the expenditures to meet the appropriations, and should have accomplished our purpose but for the severity of the times and the necessary increase of the number who have a legal claim for support.

The severe snow storm in February required prompt and decisive action in the clearing of the streets and sidewalks, and was quite expensive in its results, carrying the highway account possibly a little over the amount appropriated.

No amount having been appropriated for the fitting up of the new Hose House, the whole amount, \$215.67, has been paid out of the contingent fund, as was also a claim of \$75.00 of the city of Newton, for the care of the family of Geo. G. Corson, sick with small-pox during the year 1873, a claim contracted before any of the present board entered upon their term of service.

We feel that our town is now on the high road to prosperity; each year finds its debt reduced, and consequently its interest account growing less. Our taxes have been reduced from \$16 per thousand to \$12.50 in the last three years, while the valuation has also decreased 20 per cent. upon buildings; this is indeed a credible showing, and may be still further improved upon with care in making the appropriations. Being situated but seven miles from Boston, with every facility of travel, the greater portion of the town nestling beneath its many hills, clad with verdure and beauty, populated with more than an average of intelligence and culture, with almost every improvement that the times demand, with a low

rate of taxation, and a healthy desire for every needed improvement, it seems as if nothing could now stop our onward march, to take our place among the first, in all that goes to make us a model town of this old Commonwealth.

Respectfully submitted,

WALTER BABB,

H. G. FIELDS,

N. D. BLAKE,

Selectmen of Melrose.

MELROSE, March 1, 1878.

REPORT OF BOARD OF HEALTH.

During the year we believe our town has been free from contagious disease, if we except the run of scarlet fever last spring, against the spread of which every precaution necessary was taken.

One of the greatest causes of complaint during the year has been a desire to keep swine as far away as possible from the premises of the owner, without any regard as to whose windows the "pig-pen" might happen to be located under. In many cases the very worst possible location has been selected, giving color to the charge (in some cases) that it had been purposely done to annoy neighbors. In all such cases we have provided a remedy, and would suggest to parties that to save trouble much care should be taken in these matters. In the hot summer months the pens should be kept clean and sweet, which can be done with a little labor, and thus remedy what has proved to be one of the greatest causes of complaint during the year.

The above remarks will apply to the location of privies, against which some complaint has been made. Feeling that every citizen should take a deep interest in everything that pertains to the sanitary condition of the town, and that it is only necessary to point out the hindrances thereto, to be exempt from further complaint, we leave the subject here, hoping that those who come after may be saved trouble in this direction.

Respectfully submitted,

NATHAN D. BLAKE,
WALTER BABB,
H. G. FIELDS,

Board of Health.

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK.

*Statistics of Births, Marriages and Deaths, in the Town of Melrose,
during the year 1877.*

	BIRTHS.	MARRIAGES.	DEATHS.
January,	7	2	4
February,	4	—	2
March,	5	—	9
April,	5	3	6
May,	6	3	4
June,	10	2	8
July,	10	1	3
August,	10	—	8
September,	6	3	3
October,	7	2	2
November,	13	9	1
December,	5	6	5
	—	—	—
	88	31	55

BIRTHS.

Number registered 98

Of the above number

88 were born in Melrose.

10 were born in other places.

Born of American parents	66
“ foreign “	19
“ American father and foreign mother	4
“ foreign father and American mother	9

— 98

All of the children in town born in December, 1876, and January, 1877, are males, number being 14. All born in May, 1877, are females, number being 6.

Average of one birth to 45 inhabitants.

INTENTIONS OF MARRIAGES RECORDED.

Whole number of couples	31
Both parties residing in Melrose	18
But one party residing in Melrose	13

MARRIAGES.

Whole number	31
Less than last year	1
Both parties American	29
Parties American and foreign	2
	<hr/>
First marriage of persons	50
Second " "	11
Third " "	1
	<hr/>

62—31 couples.

Age of oldest person married, 63 years.

" youngest " . " 18 "

DEATHS.

Whole number	57
Less than last year	4
Males, (married)	4
Females, "	13
Widows	9
Widowers	2
Males, (single)	13
Females, "	14

— 55

Number of dogs licensed in Melrose during the year 1877, 238.

Amount of money paid to County Treasurer as required by law, to be refunded to the town and expended for Public Library, \$470.40.

JOHN LARRABEE,

Town Clerk.

DEATHS REGISTERED IN MELROSE, 1877.

DATE OF DEATH.	NAMES.	AGE.			PLACE OF BIRTH.	DISEASE OR CAUSE OF DEATH.
		Years.	Months.	Days.		
January 18.	Arthur E. Damon	19			Westbrook, Me.	Injury by fall.
" 18.	Mary Elizabeth Symonds	25	11	18	Charlestown.	Pyemia and Uremia.
" 25.	Ward Keyes	4	4	22	Melrose.	Diphtheria.
" 28.	Sarah Maria Conway	13	11	6	"	Heart Disease.
February 7.	Emma F. Wetherell	35	7		—, N. H.	Croupous Pneumonia.
" 12.	Harriet E. Krantz	75				Heart Disease.
" 21.	Mary Ann Hayes	47			Ireland.	Pleuro Pneumonia.
March 2.	Arthur G. Lerner		10	3	Melrose.	Rachitis.
" 2.	Barbara Rice	69			Boston.	Hypermaemia of Brain.
" 8.	Angeline Collins	65	11	8	Portland, Me.	Pneumonia.
" 8.	John Turner	56	6	8	Ireland.	Tuberculosis.
" 13.	Mary Alice Mason	4	3	3	Boston.	Scarlatina.
" 13.	Clara L. Kastner		1	11	Melrose.	Indigestion and Eclampsia.
" 17.	George H. Simmons		4	2	"	Plebitis umbilical veins.
" 26.	Sarah B. Lovejoy	40			Charlestown.	Heart Dis. and Congestion.
" 28.	Susie C. Roe	39	11		Boston.	Ovarian Cystis.
April 2.	Martin Leavitt	52	1		Hingham.	Bright's Disease.
" 3.	Catherine E. Smith	36	11	24	Nelson, N. H.	Endocarditis.
" 14.	Cecilia Martha Hoffman	2		20	Melrose.	Burn.
" 19.	Caroline A. Green	68	2	13	Boston.	Ovarian Tumor.
" 24.	Mary A. Burgess	70	2		Fairfax, Me.	Cancer of stomach.
" 29.	Elizabeth Frances Fitzhenry	1	2		Melrose.	Dropsy of Brain.
May 7.	Harriet L. Wheeler	45			Malden.	Uterine Cancer.
" 14.	William R. Dowd	12			Melrose.	Heart Disease.
" 20.	Hattie L. Burnham			14	"	Congestion of Brain.
" 31.	Eliza B. Porter	64	9	14	Boston.	Heart Disease.

June 2.	John Hawkins .	104	11	6	Ireland.	Old age.
" 6.	Matilda H. Hamilton .	51	8	10	Bucksport, Me.	Cancer.
" 10.	John W. Colligan .	23	6	12	Medford.	Drowned.
" 13.	Hugh Gilligan, Jr. .		10		Boston.	Cerebral convulsions.
" 16.	Elizabeth Jessie Zappey .	29	9	19	Melrose.	Dropsy of Brain.
" 25.	William H. Sears .	7	1		Wiscasset, Me.	Consumption.
" 26.	Mary W. Tay .	74	4		Melrose.	Scarlet Fever.
" 29.	Temperance Holbrook .	60	1	6	Wellfleet.	Burn.
July 1.	Lucinda Taylor .	40	4	23	Malden.	Disease of Liver.
" 17.	Ann Julia Quimby .	63	1	14	Vermont.	Cancer.
" 31.	Marian C. Gage .	62	11	15	Boston.	Heart Disease.
August 1.	Elizabeth S. Holbrook .		5	12	Halifax, N. S.	Scrofula.
" 14.	Lewis Maxwell Mason .	5	8		Melrose.	Cholera Infantum.
" 18.	Delia Kelly .		1	1	"	Scarlet Fever.
" 19.	Richard B. Holmes .		11	16	"	Meningitis.
" 21.	Martha J. Grundy .	59	11	9	Hingham.	Diarrhoea and Chol. Inf.
" 26.	Elbridge Gardner .	26	10		Ireland.	Chro. Infl. Bowels & Spleen
" 27.	Daniel E. Coleman .	69	8		Brewster.	Typhoid Fever.
" 31.	Joseph Crocker .	24	5	22	Newburyport.	Albuminuria.
Sept. 11.	Mary Elizabeth Daniels .		1	28	Tuberculosis Pulmonalis.	Canker.
" 12.	Louisa Hathorn Goss .	70	7		Boston Highlands.	Capillary Bronchitis.
" 13.	Susan K. Andrews .	83		4	Sutton, N. H.	Apoplexia.
October 14.	William Lynde .	73			No. Malden.	Heart Disease.
" 25.	Abigail Fountain .				Hill, N. H.	Suicide.
Nov. 19.	Charles H. Cushing .	60		26	Boston.	Cancer.
Dec. 13.	Sarah A. Lynde .	68	2	5	No. Malden.	Burn, Erysipelas.
" 17.	Alice Gertrude Barrelle .	1	9	21	Philadelphia, Pa.	Liver Complaint.
" 22.	Albert Upham .	55	10	20	No. Malden.	Diphtheria.
" 25.	Sarah A. Penney .	2	11	28	No. Malden.	Bright's Disease.
" 28.	Charles Barrett .	73	8	17	Melrose.	Diphtheria.
" 29.	Harry M. Holmes .	5				

APPROPRIATIONS, 1877.

APRIL 3.

Support of the poor	\$3,500 00
Contingent fund	800 00
Interest on town debt	9,000 00
Reduction of town debt	6,000 00
Deficiency in school contingent, (1876)	550 00
School contingent	1,200 00
Schools, including salaries of committee	12,500 00
Insurance on public buildings	300 00
Deficiency, water construction	1,527 00
Water maintenance, including salaries of commissioners,	1,500 00
Water, (for the use of the town)	2,000 00
Highways, culverts and sidewalks	2,200 00
Fire Department	2,200 00
Lighting streets	1,500 00
Public Library, Dog-Tax and	400 00
Additional street lamps	150 00
Drainage	200 00
Salaries of Town Officers	1,880 00
Franklin street	300 00
Police	200 00
Decoration Day	200 00
	<hr/>
	\$48,107 00

NOVEMBER 6.

The Treasurer was authorized to borrow the following sums, for the purposes named, the same to be assessed in the taxes of 1878.

Counsel fees and expenses of suits	\$542 33
School contingent	800 00

SALARIES OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Selectmen, each \$200,—the member of the Board having charge of the town poor, \$50 additional.

Town Clerk	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$175 00
Town Treasurer	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	275 00
Assessors, each	.	.	.	.	.	\$150 00		
Water Commissioners, each	.	.	.	.	.	50 00		
School Committee, each	.	.	.	.	.	50 00		
The chairman of the Board, additional	.	.	.	.	.	25 00		
Collector, $\frac{1}{2}$ of one per cent. on the amount of taxes collected and paid over to the Treasurer.								
Auditors, each	.	.	.	.	.	15 00		

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

EXPENSES OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Paid Teachers' Salaries to March 1, 1878.

HIGH SCHOOL.

Alonzo G. Whitman, 16 weeks, at \$1,800 per annum .	\$720 00
“ “ 24 “ “ 1,600 “ .	960 00
Mary L. Charles, 16 “ “ 1,000 “ .	400 00
“ “ 24 “ “ 900 “ .	540 00
Emma A. J. Bugbee, 16 “ “ 700 “ .	280 00
“ “ “ 24 “ “ 650 “ .	390 00
	<hr/>
	\$3,290 00

FIRST GRAMMAR.

Frances H. Turner, one year, at \$1,000 per annum .	\$1,000 00
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SECOND GRAMMAR (EMERSON STREET).

Lucy W. Bisbee, 16 weeks, at \$700 per annum .	\$280 00
“ “ “ 24 “ “ “ “ .	360 00
Emeline Porter, services as assistant .	44 00
Annie R. Lecraw, “ “ “ .	12 00
	<hr/>
	\$696 00

SECOND GRAMMAR (CENTRE).

Julia M. Porter, 24 weeks, at \$600 per annum .	\$360 00
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THIRD GRAMMAR (EMERSON STREET).

Julia M. Porter, 16 weeks, at \$600 per annum .	\$240 00
Susan D. Melcher, 24 “ “ 550 “ .	330 00
	<hr/>
	\$570 00

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

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THIRD GRAMMAR (CENTRE).

Emma M. Cate, 16 weeks, at \$600 per annum . .	\$240 00
“ “ “ 24 “ “ 550 “ . .	330 00
	<hr/>
	\$570 00

CENTRE INTERMEDIATE.

Chastine Emerson, 16 weeks, at \$550 per annum .	\$220 00
“ “ “ 24 “ “ 500 “ .	300 00
	<hr/>
	\$520 00

LYNDE STREET INTERMEDIATE.

Louise P. Arnold, 16 weeks, at \$550 per annum .	\$220 00
“ “ “ 24 “ “ 500 “ .	300 00
	<hr/>
	\$520 00

VINTON STREET INTERMEDIATE.

Mary E. Norris, 16 weeks, at \$550 per annum .	\$220 00
Hannah F. Lewis, 24 “ “ 450 “ .	270 00
	<hr/>
	\$490 00

CENTRE PRIMARY.

Sarah E. Pratt, 16 weeks, at \$550 per annum .	\$220 00
“ “ “ 24 “ “ 500 “ .	300 00
	<hr/>
	\$520 00

LYNDE STREET PRIMARY.

Mary M. Gilman, 16 weeks, at \$550 per annum .	\$220 00
“ “ “ 24 “ “ 500 “ .	300 00
	<hr/>
	\$520 00

VINTON STREET PRIMARY.

Hannah F. Lewis, 16 weeks, at \$550 per annum .	\$220 00
Alice H. Long, 24 “ “ 400 “ .	240 00
	<hr/>
	\$460 00

UPHAM STREET (MIXED) SCHOOL.

Susan D. Melcher, 16 weeks, at \$550 per annum .	\$220 00
Caroline E. Southwick, 24 “ “ 400 “ .	240 00
	<hr/>
	\$460 00

GREEN STREET (MIXED) SCHOOL.

Lydia Mendum, 16 weeks, at \$550 per annum	.	.	\$220 00
" " 24 " " 500 "	.	.	300 00
			<hr/>
			\$520 00

HIGHLAND (MIXED) SCHOOL.

Etta W. Kilbreth, 16 weeks, at \$550 per annum	.	\$220 00
Etta W. Hallowell, 24 " " 500 "	.	300 00
		<hr/>
		\$520 00

MUSIC.

Mrs. G. N. Boardman, services one year	.	.	\$300 00
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PAID JANITORS FOR SERVICES TO MARCH 1, 1878.

Augustus Durant	\$275 00
Orice K. Stebbins	300 00
Benjamin Stones	.	.	.	.	.	.	100 00
Joseph W. Simonds	.	.	.	.	.	.	50 00
Arthur L. Upham	.	.	.	.	.	.	50 00
George W. Wyman	.	.	.	.	.	.	27 08
John Singer,	.	.	.	.	.	.	22 92
							<hr/>
							\$825 00

FUEL.

E. Keyes & Son, coal	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$526 82
John McCarty, charcoal	.	.	.	.	.	.	10 00
Aiken & Woodard, charcoal	4 00
S. E. Benson, coal	5 25
							<hr/>
							\$546 07

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

S. A. Ranlett, services	\$25 00
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RECAPITULATION.

Teachers' salaries	\$11,316 00
Janitors' services	825 00
Fuel	546 07
Committee . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	25 00
								<hr/>
								\$12,712 07

CONTRA.

Appropriation	\$12,500 00	
Balance from last year	397 10	
Received from State	192 89	
" " Charles Toppan for tuition		
of daughter	35 15	
		<hr/>
		\$13,125 14
Amount unexpended		413 07
		<hr/>
		\$13,125 14

NOTE.—Of the unexpended balance above shown, \$291.66 is due the Committee for services.

SCHOOL CONTINGENT.

Appropriation,	\$1,200 00
Amount borrowed, as per vote Nov. 6, 1877,	800 00
	<hr/>
	\$2,000 00

EXPENDED.

A. G. Whitcomb, school furniture,	. . . . .	\$565 62
Joseph L. Ross,	“	14 00
Eureka Ventilating Co., two ventilators,	. . . . .	35 00
Samuel Kelley, six ventilators,	. . . . .	150 00
C. A. Eastman, books and stationery,	. . . . .	118 82
J. L. Hammett,	“ “ “	48 43
Willard Small,	“	23 51
		<hr/>
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>		\$955 38

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$955 38
Hooper, Lewis & Co., pens,	21 25
Maynard & Noyes, ink,	13 50
Lawrence, Wilde & Co., shades and furniture,	15 75
Babb & Stephens, printing,	51 15
Henry McElvin, slating blackboards,	35 00
M. C. Warren & Co., hardware,	3 75
Small Bros. & Lovejoy, closet, book racks, &c.,	25 00
J. H. Daniels, diplomas,	27 05
F. H. Turner, programmes,	3 00
Wm. Bourne & Son, teaming piano,	10 00
Henry Barron, expressing,	6 23
H. W. Cushman, police services,	24 85
C. Hoffman, repairing chair and labor,	2 65
M. W. Currier, ribbon for diplomas,	3 70
Augustus Durant, sundries,	4 23
Benjamin Stones, labor,	5 00
Joel Atwood, carpenter work and stock,	65 77
P. R. Ellis, concrete walks, &c.,	102 57
“ “ building cess pool,	50 00
J. C. Howes, labor and stock, repairing stoves, furnaces, water pipes, &c.,	301 29
J. P. Deering & Co., lumber,	55 91
Levi Boles & Son, outside windows,	22 42
Daniel Wiley, cleaning vault,	10 00
F. T. & C. E. Palmer, painting,	7 25
G. & T. R. Spear, “	2 50
Mackett & Howes, glazing,	4 50
W. S. Upham, “	1 40
M. S. Page, clock,	7 00
G. G. Nichols, mason work,	8 50
Walter Hicks, repairing shades and awnings,	4 50
R. A. Freeman, carting settees,	28 25
James Worthen, sundries,	10 90
W. A. Hatch, chemicals,	1 65
L. L. Warren, labor on water pipe,	95
John Larrabee, thermometer,	60
A. E. Upham, carpenter work,	5 50
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	<hr/> \$1,898 95

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

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<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$1,898 95
Samuel Ellison, mason,	2 50
A. & E. Burton & Co., dusters,	3 90
Bugbee & Barrett, sundries,	1 35
Wm. H. Wells, "	1 48
John Singer, Jr., broom,	45
Wakefield Rattan Co., mats,	11 19
	<hr/>
	\$1,919 82
Balance unexpended,	80 18
	<hr/>
	\$2,000 00

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Appropriation	\$2,200 00
Balance from last year	93 17
Received for old hose sold	6 65
	<hr/>
	\$2,299 82

EXPENDED.

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

Board of Engineers, services to April 1, 1877	\$60 00
" " " stationery	1 00
J. A. Thomas, account book	1 75
Joseph S. Smith, one Bangor extension ladder	137 50
Jas. H. Cole & Co., hose oil	13 00
Bugbee & Barrett, groceries	8 07
Henry Barron, expressing	5 35
R. W. Chandler, rubber coats for engineers	16 50
" " " keys	1 50
Hunneman & Co., repairing Endeavor Engine	33 00
Thos. McCoubry, " " "	75
R. M. Rand, labor on " "	3 00
Scrannage Bros. & Cook, brass lantern	8 00
	<hr/>
	\$289 42

BIGELOW HOOK AND LADDER Co., No. 1.

Services of men to Feb. 1, 1878	\$488 33
C. W. Burnham, services as steward, 1 year . .	40 00
Joseph Edwards, painting and repairing ladders. .	53 00
Thos. McCoubry, blacksmithing	25 01
S. E. Benson, coal	6 00
Scrannage Bros. & Cook, repairing and plating eye-bolts	3 70
R. W. Chandler, mugs	1 33
Bugbee & Barrett, sundries	3 00
Paul O. Masse, heavy strap	1 25
W. J. Silver, splicing foot ropes	1 25
J. C. Howes, repairing lantern	75
	<hr/>
	\$623 62

RUSSELL HOSE Co., No. 1.

Services of 15 men, 1 year to Feb. 1, 1878 . .	\$300 00
R. H. Rand, services as steward, 1 year . . .	40 00
John Louer, casting, for carriage	20 95
Joseph Edwards repairing and painting carriage .	42 00
Clark & Phillips, rolls for carriage	1 25
R. W. Chandler, 4 rubber overcoats	12 00
Bugbee & Barrett, sundries	3 23
E. Keyes & Son, coal	10 70
S. E. Benson, wood	2 00
Malden and Melrose Gas Light Co.	15 40
J. C. Howes, small hose, pipe, etc.	11 40
Thos McCoubry, blacksmithing	1 50
T. Frank Hanly, weather strip	1 92
Paul O. Masse, repairing straps	1 80
W. T. Howard, " trough	1 50
	<hr/>
	\$465 65

WYOMING HOSE Co., No. 2.

Services of men to Feb. 1, 1878	\$298 26
Frank Gibbons, services as steward, 1 year . .	40 00
Trustees of Wyoming Lodge, rent 6 mos. . . .	75 00
	<hr/>
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$413 26

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$413 26
L. W. Gilman, rent 6 mos.	75 00
“ “ stove pipe	2 70
J. C. Howes, stock and labor fitting up stove . . .	12 10
E. Keyes & Son, coal	10 70
Malden and Melrose Gas Light Co.	8 05
Tufts Bros., repairing lantern	75
Henry Barron, expense repairing strap	35
Bugbee & Barrett, oil	35

 \$523 26

HIGHLAND HOSE CO., No. 3.

Services of men to Feb. 1, 1878	\$281 66
Edward P. Fuller, services as steward 9 mos. . . .	30 00
Webster Brown, “ “ “ 3 “	10 00
James Boyd & Sons, copper pipe and handles . . .	12 50
E. Keyes & Son, coal	10 70
S. E. Benson, coal and wood	5 50
John Singer, Jr., sundries	7 42
Bugbee & Barrett, “	80
R. W. Chandler, rubber overcoat	3 00
A. W. Parker, glazing	40
J. C. Howes, repairs, pipe, etc.	3 25
Francis Morandi, repairing lanterns	1 25
Joseph Edwards, wood work, hose sled	15 50
Thos. McCoubry, iron work, hose sled	12 50

 \$394 48

RECAPITULATION.

Contingent expenses	\$289 42
Bigelow H. & L. Co.	623 62
Russell Hose Co.	465 65
Wyoming Hose Co.	523 26
Highland Hose Co.	394 48

 \$2,296 43

Appropriation	\$2,200 00
Unexpended balance and receipts	99 82

 \$2,299 82

To credit of fund	3 39
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 \$2,299 82

 \$2,299 82

HIGHWAYS, SIDEWALKS, AND CULVERTS.

EXPENDED.

Paid laborers	\$2,017 56
“ for teams	351 70

\$2,369 26

Joseph Edwards, repairing snow plough .	\$5 00
J. P. Deering & Co., lumber . . .	31 85
Geo. L. Morse, building sidewalk . .	10 00
Whittemore Bros., shovels . . .	11 25
Marcellus Day & Co., drain pipe . .	34 98
James Marshall, drain pipe . . .	12 96
A. W. Lynde, blasting ledge, (Green St.)	15 00
James Eaton Adm'r, gravel . . .	36 64
J. O. Lynde, “ . . .	2 90
James Marshall, “ . . .	58 20
George F. Boardman, “ . . .	25 20
Wm. Fanley, “ . . .	19 12
Thos. McCoubry, sharpening tools . .	35 37

\$298 47

\$2,667 73

CONTRA.

Appropriation	\$2,200 00
Balance from last year	395 05

\$2,595 05

Expenditures exceed	72 68
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\$2,667 73

Of the amount paid for labor and teams there was expended in—

March, 1877	\$71 69
April, “	286 93
May, “	457 92
June, “	554 63
July, “	136 71
August, “	96 50
October, “	418 69
November, “	75 96
December, “	33 06
February, 1878	237 17

\$2,369 26

The sum named as expended in February was for the purpose of clearing snow from streets and sidewalks.

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

Appropriation,	\$800 00
Balance unexpended last year,	498 05

RECEIPTS.

For auctioneers' licenses :

John R. Jones,	2 00
George Stockwell,	2 00
George L. Horr,	2 00

 \$1,304 05

EXPENDED.

Babb & Stephens, printing notices, warrants, &c.	\$94 50
“ “ annual reports, 1877	275 70
John Larrabee, compiling annual reports, 1877	25 00
“ “ making register of voters	10 00
“ “ collecting, recording and returning births, deaths and marriages, 1877	62 35
“ “ expense, stationery, postage, &c.	3 80
Alfred Mudge & Son, printing By-Laws	20 00
D. L. Wentworth, services and expenses of detective	96 47
Albon W. Parker, painting fence “Old Burial Ground”	30 00
Pliny Edson, trunk for flag	6 00
Henry C. Richardson, distributing By-Laws	7 00
Knight, Adams & Co., account books	5 55
Henry Barron, expressing	4 60
Battery “C” M. V. M., firing salute, July 4th	50 00
Paul O. Masse, repairing harness	12 00
Nelson Cochran, making surveys	8 00
Thomas McCoubry, bolts, grapnels, etc.	6 55
W. R. Phillips, tax bills and advertising	16 90
G. & T. R. Spear, lettering ballot boxes	2 87
G. A. Kimball & Co., advertising	5 70
A. B. Pierce, making death returns	8 25
Nathaniel Howard, making death returns	3 25
A. B. Pierce, distributing warrants and serving notices	30 50
N. D. Blake, expense, marking irons, etc.	9 17

Amount carried forward,

\$794 16

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$794 16
Lemuel Merrill, keys	1 75
J. R. Jones, book for Assessors	3 75
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, register	1 60
G. W. Bartlett, use of team	4 50
C. J. Adams, Master House of Cor., board G. S. Hyde	16 43
H. G. Fields, sundries	1 61
“ “ ringing bell	6 00
“ “ care of lock-up, one year	50 00
O. K. Stebbins, ringing bell	6 00
Augustus Durant, “ “	6 00
E. P. Fuller, “ “	4 00
Webster Brown, “ “	2 00
A. W. Haskell, tax collector's book	3 00
Stephen Hyde, sign posts	1 60
City of Newton, medical attendance on family of George G. Corson in 1873	75 00
	<hr/>
	\$977 40

HOSE HOUSE AT WYOMING.

Bills paid for Furnishing, etc.

A. W. Hastings & Co., doors	\$23 00
A. W. Hastings & Co., topight	5 00
Richard Whowell, carpenter, stock and labor	39 70
William A. Remick, painter, “ “	50 65
M. F. Kelly, mason, “ “	23 31
J. P. Deering & Co., lumber	38 03
R. W. Chandler, shades and fixtures	8 35
J. C. Howes, gas fixtures, water pipe, &c.	16 90
Thos. McCoubry, iron rods and labor	1 50
Henry Barron, expressing doors and windows	2 25
M. C. Warren & Co., hardware	6 98
	<hr/>
	\$215 67
	<hr/>
Balance unexpended	\$1,193 07
	110 98
	<hr/>
	\$1,304 05

MELROSE WATER FUND.

Appropriation for the use of the water . . .	\$2,000 00
“ “ maintenance . . .	1,500 00
“ “ deficiency on construction account .	1,527 00
	<hr/>
	\$5,027 00
Received from A. Lane, Supt., cash at various times,	
water rates collected, etc., . . .	8,989 42
	<hr/>
	\$14,016 42

EXPENDED.

Due the town for advances, see last report .	\$1,526 99
Paid interest coupons on bonds \$150,000, at	
6 per cent.	9,000 00
Paid bills on account of construction and	
maintenance, for a detailed statement of	
which see Commissioners' Report . .	2,541 27
Paid J. D. Wilde, Treasurer of Joint Water	
Boards, expense of defending suits, etc. .	850 00
	<hr/>
	\$13,918 26
	<hr/>
Balance	\$98 16

SUPPORT OF POOR

EXPENDED.

For Groceries, Provisions, Supplies, etc.

Bugbee & Barrett, groceries . . .	\$553 50
L. F. Hinckley, “ . . .	391 37
Wm. H. Wells, “ . . .	136 43
L. W. Gilman, “ . . .	96 88
James Worthen, “ . . .	96 00
G. W. Woodman, “ . . .	6 00
John Singer, Jr., “ . . .	2 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,282 18

Amount brought forward,

\$1,282 18

For Fuel.

S. E. Benson, wood and coal,	.	.	.	\$240 50
George Lynde,	"	.	.	19 12
James Marshall,	"	.	.	99 67
Robert Philpot,	"	.	.	17 74
W. J. Farnsworth, coal	.	.	.	11 00
W. B. Ellis, wood	.	.	.	7 50

 395 53
For Rent.

W. J. Farnsworth, rent	.	.	.	\$16 25
Jeremiah Crowley, "	.	.	.	42 00
Mary Lynde, "	.	.	.	20 00
Abigail Fuller, "	.	.	.	27 00
M. J. Ellis, "	.	.	.	112 00
Dexter Bryant, "	.	.	.	36 00
John Warren, "	.	.	.	90 00
T. J. Kimball, "	.	.	.	33 75
Thomas Brown, "	.	.	.	30 00
John Gately, "	.	.	.	58 50
A. W. Lynde, "	.	.	.	26 00
Mary Henney, "	.	.	.	15 00
B. R. Upham, "	.	.	.	12 00
Edward Duffy, "	.	.	.	10 00
Overseers of Poor expense, paid rent	.	.	.	38 50

 567 00
For Relief of Persons out of Town.

City of Boston, supplies	.	.	.	\$100 79
" Lynn, "	.	.	.	118 75
" Somerville, "	.	.	.	128 65
Town of Woburn, "	.	.	.	241 03
" Saugus, "	.	.	.	82 13
" Malden, "	.	.	.	10 63
Edward Dean & Co., supplies	.	.	.	45 00
J. P. Stickney, "	.	.	.	30 00
F. McBriarty, "	.	.	.	60 00
Mrs. Charles Newhall, "	.	.	.	45 00

 861 98
Amount carried forward,

 \$3,106,69

Amount brought forward,

\$3,106 69

For Support of Insane Persons.

Taunton Lunatic Hospital	\$357 70	
Worcester " "	338 05	
Asylum for Chronic Insane	92 75	
	<hr/>	788 50

For care of Sick Persons.

Josiah York	\$35 00	
Sarah Fisher	3 00	
Mrs. Sanborn	6 00	
Disa Stewart	1 50	
	<hr/>	45 50

Medical Attendance and Medicine.

Moses Parker, M. D., attendance . .	\$77 00	
J. Vincent Smith, " " . .	51 00	
J. S. Clark, " " . .	40 00	
J. Richmond Barss, " " . .	17 00	
John Larrabee, medicine	39 07	
W. A. Hatch, "	4 87	
S. C. Atwood, "	5 00	
	<hr/>	233 94

J. W. Simonds, board and clothing A. Conner,	\$207 83	
Abbie Barter, board of Mrs. L. G. Davis and child	156 00	
Thomas D. Mann, board of Lucy Barron .	72 00	
Henry Woodward, " " " " .	36 00	
St. Vincent's Asylum, board of Kate Lyman	72 00	
Ellen Merrill, board of M. E. Waitt . .	31 50	
	<hr/>	575 33

Sundries.

George Newhall, boots and shoes . . .	\$41 45	
George E. Fuller, milk	23 48	
C. W. B. Polk, dry goods	7 23	
George W. Bartlett, use of team . . .	7 00	
Charles Taylor, labor	1 50	
J. C. Howes, repairing stove	2 75	
	<hr/>	
<i>Amounts carried forward,</i>	\$83 41	\$4,749 96

<i>Amounts brought forward,</i>	\$83 41	\$4,749 96
R. A. Freeman, moving furniture	2 00	
Nathaniel Howard, undertaker, services, &c.	63 25	
George G. Lunt, meals to tramps	8 25	
S. F. Barrett, tickets " "	5 85	
H. G. Fields, expenses	16 86	
A. B. Pierce, services	11 88	
Babb & Stephens, printing	14 75	
Mrs. H. P. Hollis, cash	6 00	
	<hr/>	212 25
Total amount expended		\$4,962 21

Amount expended for each person or family assisted by the town :

Ellen McCarty,	\$125 65
Bridget Callahan and family,	312 32
John L. Chambers,	20 00
Abigail Conner,	215 28
Chas. Howard,	195 95
Eliza C. Grover,	178 18
Henrietta Davis and child,	181 80
Mrs. Chas. Sanborn and family,	311 07
William Story and family,	58 75
Tramps, food, tickets, etc.,	17 98
George Gobel,	21 75
Francis Hamilton,	225 00
John Mortlock and family,	51 58
John Connell, " "	13 60
Eliza McAlmon,	8 87
Thomas Mann,	100 87
Mrs. R. Stinson,	122 72
Mrs. M. Murray and family,	16 00
Edward Moore, " "	104 23
Mrs. A. J. Grover, and family,	139 94
Harriet P. Krantz,	8 75
George W. Grover and family,	49 62
Charles Grover,	4 63
Ann E. Arnold,	128 65

Amount carried forward, \$2,613 19

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$2,613 19
Abigail Thomas,	184 25
George N. Bodwell,	188 80
Lucy Barron,	108 00
William Dutton,	127 12
Elizabeth Mayo,	98 00
Eleanor Tucker,	27 00
Michael Murray,	27 20
Mrs. Sullivan,	37 75
Edward F. Tainter,	219 15
Mary Cordon,	199 30
Mrs. E. K. Chase,	8 48
Josiah York,	2 00
James Killion,	6 00
Richard Woods and family,	83 60
Matthew Brennan,	8 80
Mrs. Henry P. Hollis,	96 75
Albert Bodwell,	23 00
Elizabeth M. Waitt,	39 00
Manuel Leandro,	12 00
Mary Divany,	22 75
Abram K. Hall,	60 00
Sarah Crafts,	15 00
Abigail Fuller,	7 00
Frank Davis and family,	82 13
Christina Anderson,	8 13
Margaret Powers,	1 00
Katie Lyman,	72 00
Richard P. Sprague,	82 23
Mrs. Duffus,	3 00
Torry Peabody,	3 00
L. W. Harris and family,	241 03
William York	9 75
— Hayden,	3 25
John Carroll,	6 00
Mrs. Nathaniel Budd,	12 50
Esther Morcomb,	12 75
Simeon Valler,	11 25

Amount carried forward,

\$4,762 16

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$4,762 16
Avery B. Howard,	11 77
John Lahey,	74 00
Ellen Warren,	5 02
Wm. A. Johnson,	10 00

Bills which cannot be applied to any one person or family.

George E. Fuller, for milk	23 48
Babb & Stephens, for printing	14 75
W. A. Hatch, for telegram	67
Overseers, expenses paid	60 36
	<hr/>
	\$4,962 21

CONTRA.

Appropriation	\$3,500 00
Balance from last year	36 52
	<hr/>
	\$3,536 52

RECEIPTS.

From James Worthen, Guardian E. M. Waitt	\$16 59
From Town of Provincetown, for supplies to F. Hamilton	143 48
From Town of Norton, for supplies to E. Tucker	12 00
From City of Lynn	76 00
“ State Treasurer	92 71
“ Richard P. Sprague	44 56
“ Edward Moore	3 00
“ H. G. Fields, amount refunded by laborers on highway for aid received	61 24
	<hr/>
	\$449 58
	<hr/>
	\$3,986 10
Expenditures exceed appropriations and receipts	976 11
	<hr/>
	\$4,962 21

The following claims have been presented and are now due.

From State	\$175 28	
“ City of Boston	124 87	
“ “ Lynn	24 48	
“ Town of Provincetown	117 43	
“ “ Norton	21 00	
“ children of Abigail Thomas	184 25	
	<hr/>	\$647 31

There is also due the Town for the support of Abigail Thomas during the years 1875 and 1876, the sum of \$320 51

STATE AID.

Received from State Treasurer, for aid paid during year 1876 \$634 00

Names of persons receiving Aid, and amount paid to each during year ending March 1, 1878.

Samuel Sprague	\$120 00
George C. Bucknam (10 months)	100 00
William Story (10 months)	100 00
Isaac C. Dowling (13 months)	78 00
Luzon Weeks	72 00
Joseph S. Eastman	72 00
Horace W. Cushman	54 00
Sara E. Stilphen	48 00
Mary F. Howard	48 00
Sarah Barrett	48 00
Helen E. Poole	48 00
Maria G. Colson	48 00
Anna W. Martin	48 00
Harriet N. Lynde (10 months)	40 00
Harrison French (2 months)	17 00
Lionel D. Phillips (2 months)	9 00
James F. Ramsay (4 months)	6 00
	<hr/>
	\$956 00

INTEREST.

Appropriation	\$9,000 00
Balance from last year	4,908 95
	<u>\$13,908 95</u>

EXPENDED.

Interest coupons on Town Hall bonds .	\$4,550 00
“ on note made to R. G. Shedd, trustee	1,750 00
Lowell Institution for Savings . . .	1,200 00
State Treasurer	900 00
Mary Dix	110 00
Melrose Savings Bank	36 67
Paid on temporary loans in anticipation of taxes	948 44
	<u>\$9,495 11</u>
Balance unexpended	4,413 84
	<u>\$13,908 95</u>

TOWN HALL.

No appropriation.

EXPENDED.

H. G. Fields, services as janitor, 1 year to Jan. 1, 1878	\$300 00
“ “ step ladder	2 50
Charles Taylor, stock and labor, repairing building and furniture	81 02
Malden & Melrose Gas Light Co., gas consumed .	263 68
Bugbee & Barrett, sundries, window brush, dusters, &c.	7 80
J. C. Howes, stock and labor, repairing gas and water pipes	24 86
J. P. Deering & Co., lumber	21 52
E. Howard & Co., repairing clock	2 02
P. R. Ellis, granite threshold for main entrance . .	20 00
	<u>\$723 40</u>
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$723 40
T. Frank Hanly, weather strip	1 78
E. Keyes & Son, 50 tons furnace coal	255 00
S. E. Benson, coal and wood	63 25
Aiken & Woodard, charcoal	10 00
Ingalls & Kendrickken, repairing steam apparatus	11 60
Samuel Ellison, mason work	21 50
G. G. Nichols, brass padlocks for lock-up	4 00
Whittemore Bros., wheelbarrow	5 10
Lawrence, Wilde & Co., mattresses, pillows and blankets for lock-up	30 00
John Larrabee, sundries	2 60
Thos. McCoubry, iron bolts, wedges, &c.	7 17
W. H. Adams, labor on outside doors	3 00
F. T. & C. E. Palmer, glazing	3 00
Albon W. Parker, "	50
	<hr/>
	\$1,141 90

RECEIPTS.

From Melrose Lyceum, use of hall	\$235 00
" Orthodox Society, "	100 00
" Republican Town Com., use of hall	38 94
" Mrs. G. N. Bordman, "	25 00
" Georgia Minstrels, "	25 00
" Spaulding's Troupe, "	25 00
" Morse Benefit Concert, "	25 00
" Wilkinson Family, "	25 00
" Old Folks' Concert, "	25 00
" George M. Dennis, "	40 00
" Melrose Savings Bank, use of room	50 00
	<hr/>
	\$613 94
Expenditures exceed receipts	527 96
	<hr/>
	\$1,141 90

CENTRE SCHOOL-HOUSE BUILDING FUND.

Balance unexpended, 1876	\$19 10
Paid order of Committee to P. R. Ellis	19 10
	<hr/>
	\$19 10

WYOMING CEMETERY.

RECEIPTS.

For 13 lots sold	\$535 00
For $\frac{1}{2}$ lot sold	20 00
On account of lot sold	20 00
For graves	33 00
“ use of tomb	6 00
“ removing gravel	10 00
“ grass sold	6 00
	<hr/>
	\$630 00

EXPENDED.

Nelson Cochran, surveying	\$15 00
Richard Whowell, making gate	9 05
Thomas Marshall, labor performed and teams furnished, building wall and bridge, grading, etc.	114 05
Nathaniel Howard, labor	87 00
George Gobel, labor	60 93
A. B. Pierce, removing bodies	4 00
Henry J. Rice, granite capping for wall	45 50
S. E. Benson, cement	5 55
George Lynde, use of team	3 00
John Larrabee, services on committee	25 00
George Newhall, “ “ “	25 00
“ “ making and acknowledging deeds	6 50
	<hr/>
	\$400 58
Surplus over expenses for year	229 42
	<hr/>
	\$630 00

DECORATION DAY.

Appropriation	\$200 00
Paid Post 4, G. A. R., as per vote of the town	200 00

TOWN OFFICERS.

Appropriation	\$1,880 00
Balance from last year	57 21
	<hr/>
	\$1,937 21

EXPENDED.

John R. Norton, services as Auditor, 1876	\$25 00
Frank E. Orcutt, " " " "	25 00
Walter Babb, " " Selectman, 1877	200 00
Nathan D. Blake, " " " "	200 00
Henry G. Fields, " " " and Overseer of Poor, 1877	250 00
John Larrabee, services as Town Clerk, 1877	175 00
George Newhall, " " Treasurer, "	275 00
John R. Jones, " " Assessor, "	150 00
James C. Currier, " " " "	150 00
Charles T. Stevens " " " "	150 00

A. B. Pierce, services as Collector:—

For collecting \$22,623.16, at $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per cent	113 11
	<hr/>
	\$1,713 11
Balance	224 10
	<hr/>
	\$1,937 21

ADDITIONAL STREET LAMPS.

Appropriation	\$150 00
Unexpended balance	7 49
	<hr/>
	\$157 49

EXPENDED.

Paid Globe Gas Light Co. for—

10 copper lanterns	\$74 99
5 iron lamp posts and frames	55 00
4 wood lamp posts and bars	11 00
4 iron frames	5 50
Freight, setting and painting	11 00
	<hr/>
	\$157 49

P O L I C E .

Appropriation	\$200 00
Balance from last year	30 84
	<hr/>
	\$230 84

EXPENDED.

Joseph Holbrook, services	\$73 96
H. W. Cushman, "	42 17
A. B. Pierce, "	25 50
H. B. Newhall, "	4 50
Thomas E. Drake, " and expenses	74 50
	<hr/>
	\$220 63
Balance unexpended	\$10 21

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Appropriation, Dog Tax and	\$400 00
Balance from last year	448 75
Received from County Treasurer, dog tax, 1877	437 47
	<hr/>
	\$1,286 22
Paid E. H. Goss, treasurer of trustees, on orders	\$848 75
Balance to credit of fund	437 47
	<hr/>
	\$1,286 22

ARMORY RENT.

Paid H. A. Leonard, rent one year to Feb. 17, 1878	\$600 00
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Cr.

Received from State Treasurer on account of year 1875	\$116 00
" " " " 1876	227 40
" " " " 1877	600 00
	<hr/>
	\$943 40

Amount paid by the town in previous years has been refunded in full to Jan. 1, 1878.

STREET LIGHTS.

Appropriation	\$1,500 00
Balance from last year	60 64
	<hr/>
	\$1,560 64

EXPENDED.

Paid Globe Gas Light Co., for lighting and care of	
90 lamps, 3 months	\$326 70
99 " 3 "	371 25
100 " 5 "	625 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,322 95
Balance unexpended	237 69
	<hr/>
	\$1,560 64

NOTE.—Of the balance above shown, \$125 is now due the Globe Gas Light Co., for the month of February, bill not presented in season for this report.

DYER DAM CASE.

Appropriation, 1876	\$660 00
Paid A. F. & N. N. Sargent, for surveys, levels and plans	\$385 00
Interest on above, one year	23 10
Paid County Commissioners for services under special act of Legislature, relating to drainage in towns of Malden and Melrose	200 00
	<hr/>
	\$608 10
Balance unexpended	51 90
	<hr/>
	\$660 00

FOREST STREET.

Paid P. R. Ellis, for building street as per contract	\$385 00
Extra labor	15 00
	<hr/>
	\$400 00

INSURANCE.

Appropriation	\$300 00
Balance from last year	416 89
Received from Merrimack Mutual Fire Ins. Co., dividends on policies expired	184 64
	<hr/>
	\$901 53

Paid Geo. M. M'Coy, Insurance Agent, for 12 policies in North British & Mercantile Fire Ins. Co.	\$266 25
Balance unexpended	635 28
	<hr/>
	\$901 53

PROPERTY INSURED.

School buildings and furniture, fire apparatus, engine house, hearse house, furniture in town hall, etc.

FRANKLIN STREET.

Appropriation	\$300 00
Received for 44 perch stone sold	17 60
	<hr/>
	\$317 60

EXPENDED.

A. W. Lynde, for labor	\$57 50
" " " team	39 37
" " " rendrock, fuse, caps, etc.	29 46
" " " use of drills	2 70
Paid laborers	163 50
Thos. McCoubry, sharpening drills	20 40
	<hr/>
	\$312 93
Balance unexpended	4 67
	<hr/>
	\$317 60

DRAINAGE.

Appropriation	\$200 00
Balance from last year	90 68
	<hr/>
	\$290 68

EXPENDED.

James Marshall, clearing Ell and Spot Pond brooks to Malden line, also brooks running through land of Green and Geist . . .	\$50 00
James Marshall, labor draining Foster street .	15 14
A. W. Lynde, labor on Oakland street . . .	6 00
	<hr/>
	\$71 14
Balance unexpended	219 54
	<hr/>
	\$290 68

COUNSEL FEES.

Paid Train & Teele, services and expense of defending suit of Wm. J. Farnsworth	\$300 00
F. S. Hesseltine, services and expense of defend- ing suit of D. L. Taylor	150 00
F. S. Hesseltine, services and expense of defend- ing suit of Nelson Cochran	92 33
	<hr/>
	\$542 33

REPORT OF FIRE ENGINEERS,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1ST, 1878.

It is with no slight degree of satisfaction that we tender this, our annual report, to the citizens of the town, having by the practice of strict economy, and the aid of a favorable combination of circumstances, been able to keep the expenses of the department within the appropriation, and being able to report, as we believe, the department fully up to its previous high standard. As will be seen by comparison with our last report, a few additions and improvements, which we deemed necessary to the efficiency of the department, have been made to the apparatus and appurtenances during the year.

FIRES.

The remarkably small number of fires and loss attending them, should be a cause for self congratulation to the people of the town, there having been but seven alarms during the past year, given as follows :

- May 15, 1877, Ai Rowe's house, on Tremont street, at Highlands.
- July 4th, " Chipman's Observatory, near Highland depot.
- July 4th, " Woodman's house on Bellevue avenue.
- July 13th, " Bell rung to call help to find lost child.
- Sept. 4, " B. & M. R. R. depot, at Highlands.
- Nov. 23, " Brush heap on premises of Charles Boardman, on Grove street.
- Feb. 11, 1878, fire in East Cambridge.

MEMBERSHIP.

During the past year there has been comparatively few changes in the membership of the companies, of which there are four, three hose companies and one hook and ladder company, the majority

having kept their ranks filled with competent and reliable men. The number of men allowed each hose company is fifteen, and the H. & L. Co. twenty-five.

HOUSES AND APPARATUS.

The H. & L. truck is located in the basement of the Town Hall, and is in the care of Liberty Bigelow H. & L. Co., No. 1.

In Feb. 1877, after a satisfactory trial and test, one Bangor extension ladder was purchased and placed on this carriage, taking the place of the splice ladder in use at that time, and which was regarded as unsafe by many of the firemen. The Bangor ladder extends from thirty-five to fifty-five feet. In November last the carriage and ladders were thoroughly repaired and painted, and are now in good order. The house is in good repair.

The Russell hose carriage in the care of Russell Hose Co., No. 1, is located in the old engine house on Main street, near the town hall, and is in good order, having been repaired and painted in June last. The house is in good repair.

The Wyoming hose carriage, in the care of Wyoming Hose Co., No. 2, is located in the Masonic building on the corner of Main street and Wyoming avenue. In accordance with the action of the town at the meeting in March last, rooms were fitted up on the first floor of the Masonic building, entrance on Main street, and in May last the apparatus was removed from the basement of the same building to these rooms, the accommodations being vastly better than in the old quarters. This carriage and house is in good repair.

The Highland hose carriage, in the care of Highland Hose Co., No. 3, is located in its house on Franklin street, at the Highlands. This carriage is in need of repairs and painting. The house is in good repair externally, but needs a small outlay inside. In February last, a sled and reel, for the transportation of hose in the winter season, was built and placed in this house.

The Endeavor hand engine is located in the house with the Russell hose carriage. In August last this engine was repaired and put in good working order, in which condition it is at the present time. The hose jumper belonging to this engine is used during the winter by the Russell Hose Co., being placed upon runners for that purpose.

HOSE.

The amount of hose in the department is about the same as last year, being 2,100 feet, 600 feet of which is rubber-lined linen hose, new two years ago, the remainder being leather. A considerable portion of this leather hose is unfit to stand much pressure, and we strongly recommend the purchase of more hose to supply the need. The hose is apportioned to the different sections of the town as follows :

In care of Russell Hose Co., 800 feet. Wyoming and Highland companies, 650 feet each. There is also in the Russell hose house 250 feet of leather hose unserviceable. 100 feet of condemned hose has been sold during the past year.

APPROPRIATION.

Owing to the limited means at our disposal during the past year, it has been impossible to make improvements in the care of hose, etc., which we believe to be necessary, or, in fact, to do more than keep the department up to its ordinary standard of efficiency. And while we fully appreciate the necessity for the economical expenditure of money, we believe it to be no economy to allow the efficiency of the department to deteriorate from its present high standard.

We therefore recommend the appropriation of the sum of \$3,000 for the purchase of hose, and the expenses of the department for this year.

Respectfully submitted,

A. E. WORTHEN,

J. A. THOMAS,

R. W. CHANDLER,

Engineers Melrose Fire Department.

REPORT OF ASSESSORS.

Total number of inhabitants, as reported,	4,101
Total number of children be- tween 5 and 15 years of age,	718
Total number of polls taxed,	1,121

Amount of tax on polls,	\$2,242 00	
“ “ tax on real and personal estate,	52,440 56	
	\$54,682 56	

Amount of appropriations,	\$48,107 00	
“ “ County tax,	2,093 03	
“ “ State “	3,570 00	
“ “ overlay,	912 53	
	\$54,682 56	

Total value of real estate, \$3,743,844 00	
“ “ “ personal “ 451,400 00	

Rate of taxation, \$12.50 for \$1,000.

Number of dwellings and buildings for business purposes, 1,037.

Number of horses, 222 ; number of cows, 131 ; number of acres
of land taxed, 2,700.

The following abatements have been allowed, to date, for the year 1877:

George W. Chipman,	.	.	.	.	\$16 25
George M. Dennis,	.	.	.	.	106 25
John O. Norris,	.	.	.	.	7 50
Sidney Buttrick,	.	.	.	.	6 25
Mrs. Zylphia Butler,	.	.	.	.	15 63
Mrs. J. H. Higgins,	.	.	.	.	1 25
Henry Brown,	.	.	.	.	6 25
Heirs of George Emerson,	.	.	.	.	32 50
Dexter Bryant,	.	.	.	.	12 50
Mrs. Mary G. Vinton,	.	.	.	.	8 75
A. V. Lynde,	.	.	.	.	7 50
Estate of John Hurley,	.	.	.	.	12 50
C. H. Walker,	.	.	.	.	12 50
R. Philpot,	.	.	.	.	3 13
Mrs. A. P. Lynde,	.	.	.	.	8 75
Caroline W. Clincard,	.	.	.	.	6 25
Estate of Levi Miles,	.	.	.	.	6 25
Mrs. G. C. Jacobs,	.	.	.	.	6 25
Mrs. C. F. White,	.	.	.	.	6 25
Mrs. Nancy Wilson,	.	.	.	.	20 63
Charles E. Damon,	.	.	.	.	1 25
E. Fuller,	.	.	.	.	1 25
Aaron Green,	.	.	.	.	12 50
Mary A. O'Riley,	.	.	.	.	6 25
Asa Thayer,	.	.	.	.	2 00
J. S. Austin,	.	.	.	.	5 31
J. C. Williams,	.	.	.	.	2 00
Catherine Collins,	.	.	.	.	2 08
Thos. C. Morgan,	.	.	.	.	1 25
Alden Parker,	.	.	.	.	2 37
Estate of Hiram McLaughlin,	.	.	.	.	15 63
Mrs. S. S. Twombly,	.	.	.	.	6 25
Heirs of Jeremiah Martin,	.	.	.	.	100 00
John T. Bowen,	2 00
Mrs. Hiram Whitney,	17 00
Chas. P. Lynde,	7 50

<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	<u>\$487 68</u>
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<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$487 68	
Hiram Whittington,	12 50	
C. D. Bothamby,	2 00	
Orestes Jefferson,	2 00	
Uriah Huntley,	2 00	
Mrs. Sarah and Miss Louisa Lynde, .	12 50	
Mrs. H. G. Wills,	15 63	
	<hr/>	\$534 41

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. JONES,	}	<i>Assessors of Melrose.</i>
J. C. CURRIER,		
C. T. STEVENS,		

March 1st, 1878.

REPORT OF THE TOWN TREASURER.

Cash in the treasury, March 5, 1877 . . .	\$1,119 74
Total receipts for the year	112,357 11
	<hr/>
Total disbursements for the year	\$113,476 85
	<hr/>
Cash in the treasury March 8, 1878	\$3,976 60

TEMPORARY LOANS.

Paid notes of previous year to Richardson, Hill & Co.	\$13,000 00
Borrowed in anticipation of taxes during the year . .	49,000 00
Of this amount has been paid	\$29,000 00

NOTES OUTSTANDING.

Nov. 21, 1877. C. A. Sweet, Boston, 6 mos. . .	\$5,000 00
Dec. 15, " John Pickering & Moseley, Boston, 6 mos.	5,000 00
Jan. 1, 1878. John Pickering & Moseley, Boston, 6 mos.	5,000 00
Jan. 18, 1878. Brown, Riley & Co., Boston, 6 mos.	5,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$20,000 00

PERMANENT LOANS.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, due Oct. 15, 1878, interest 6 per cent.	\$5,000 00
R. G. Shedd, trustee, due Dec. 1, 1880, interest 7 per cent.	25,000 00
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, due Oct. 15, 1883, interest 6 per cent.	5,000 00
Lowell Institution for Savings, due Sept. 7, 1885, interest 6 per cent.	20,000 00
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, due Oct. 15, 1888, interest 6 per cent.	5,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$60,000 00
Since last report there has been paid note to Mary Dix	\$4,400 00

STATEMENT OF THE TOWN DEBT.

BONDS.

Melrose Water Fund, 1st issue, due July 1, 1890	.	\$100,000	00
“ “ “ 2d “ “ Oct. 1, 1892	.	50,000	00
Town Hall Bonds, due Oct. 1, 1892	.	65,000	00
		<hr/>	
		\$215,000	00
Permanent loans	.	60,000	00
Temporary “	.	20,000	00
		<hr/>	
		\$295,000	00
Due the Melrose Water Fund (Sinking Fund of 1873)		3,635	00
		<hr/>	
		\$298,635	00

AVAILABLE ASSETS.

Due from State on account of State Aid,			
1877 . . . . .	.	\$867	00
Bills due on poor account	.	647	31
Uncollected taxes, estimated	.	22,000	00
Cash in treasury	.	3,976	60
		<hr/>	
		\$27,490	91
		<hr/>	
Net debt more than assets available	.	\$271,144	09

Respectfully submitted.

GEO. NEWHALL, *Treasurer.*

E. & O. excepted.

MELROSE, March, 9, 1878.

DR. GEORGE NEWHALL, TREASURER,

Cash in Treasury, March 5, 1878 \$1,119 74

RECEIPTS.

From State Treasurer—

On account of School Fund	\$192 89
“ “ “ State Aid	634 00
“ “ “ Armory Rent	943 40
“ “ “ Corporation Tax	1,116 35
“ “ “ Bank Tax	485 69

 3,372 33

From various sources—

On account of School Fund	\$35 15
“ “ “ Poor Fund	449 58
“ “ “ Contingent Fund	6 00
“ “ “ Fire Department	6 65
“ “ “ Franklin street	17 60

 514 98

From County Treasurer, dog tax, 1877 437 47

“ A Lane, Supt., on account of Water Fund . . 8,989 42

“ Merrimack Mutual Fire Ins. Co., dividends on policies	184 64
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For lots, graves, etc., in Wyoming Cemetery . . . 630 00

“ use of Town Hall 613 94

From A. B. Pierce, Collector, Taxes 1,852 97

“ “ “ “ “ for 1876 . . . 14,395 73

“ “ “ “ “ “ 1877 . . . 32,365 63

Received on Treasurer's notes 49,000 00

 108,469 80

 \$113,476 85

IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TOWN OF MELROSE. CR.

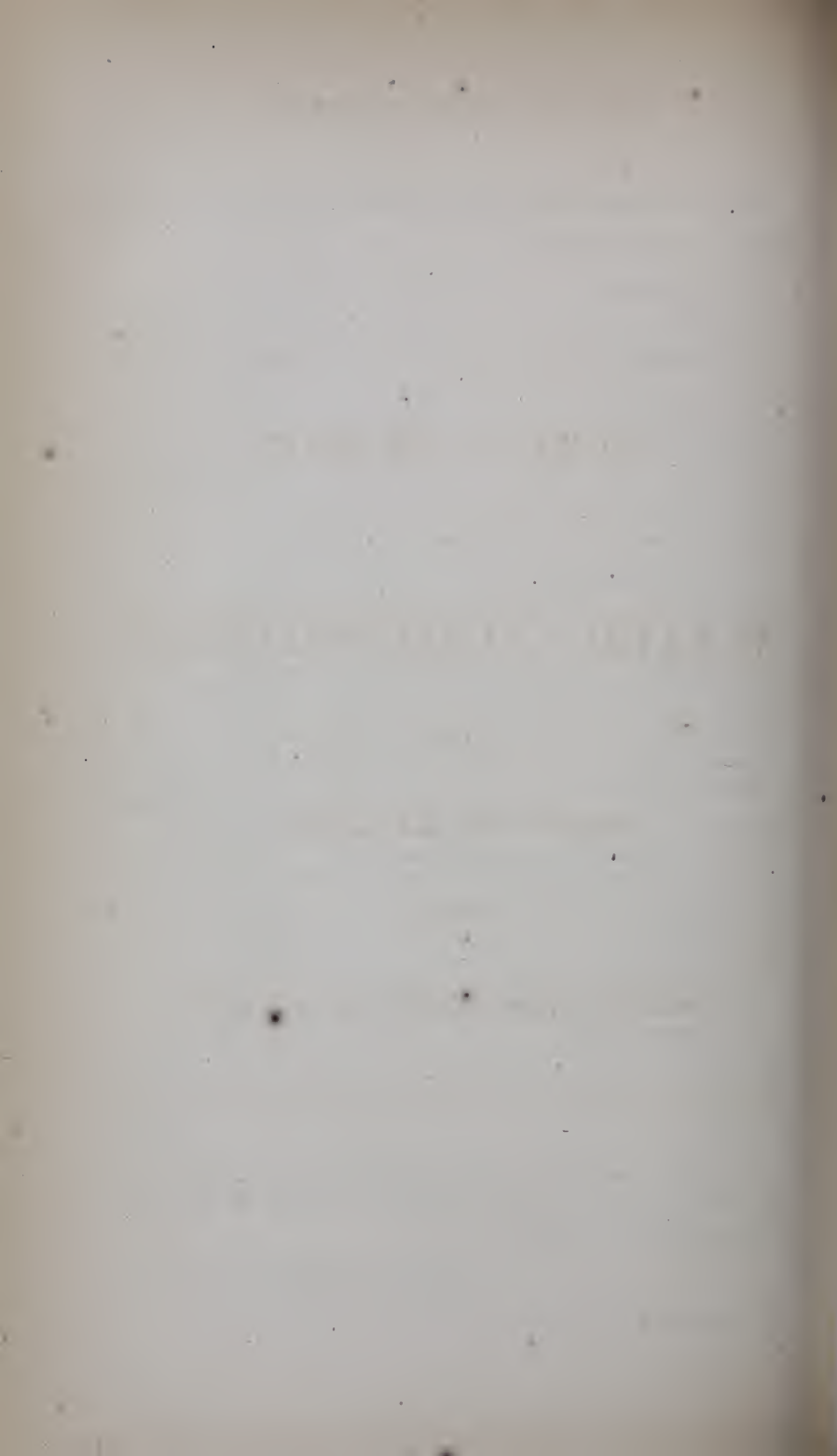
By paid on orders, as follows:—

School Fund	\$12,712 07	
School Contingent	1,919 82	
Poor Fund	4,962 21	
Contingent Fund	1,193 07	
Cemetery Fund	400 58	
Police	220 63	
Town Officers	1,713 11	
Highways	2,667 73	
State Aid	956 00	
Town Hall	1,141 90	
Street Lights	1,322 95	
Fire Department	2,296 43	
Water Fund	2,541 27	
Additional Street Lamps	157 49	
Insurance	266 25	
Drainage	71 14	
Franklin Street	312 93	
Decoration Day	200 00	
Forest Street	400 00	
Counsel Fees	542 33	
Armory Rent	600 00	
Dyer Dam Case	608 10	
		\$37,206 01
By paid interest coupons on Water Bonds	\$9,000 00	
“ J. D. Wilde, Treasurer Joint Water Boards	850 00	
“ interest on notes and Town Hall Bonds	9,495 11	
“ orders Trustees Public Library	848 75	
“ State Tax	3,570 00	
“ County Tax	2,093 03	
“ Corporation Tax (overpaid)	18 25	
“ Committee's order, Centre School House	19 10	
“ Treasurer's notes	46,400 00	
		\$72,294 24
March 8, 1878. By cash in Treasury		3,976 60
		<u>\$113,476 85</u>

We have examined in detail the orders and vouchers of the Treasurer's account for the financial year ending March 1, 1878, and find the same correct.

JOHN R. NORTON, }
FRANK E. ORCUTT, } *Auditors.*

MELROSE, March 8, 1878.



REPORT OF THE BOARD

OF

WATER COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

TOWN OF MELROSE,

FOR THE

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING FEB. 28, 1878.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

JOSEPH D. WILDE.

W. IRVING ELLIS.

J. R. SIMONDS.

REPORT OF THE WATER COMMISSIONERS.

In compliance with an Act of the Legislature approved April 2nd, 1870, we respectfully submit this our Eighth Annual Report, together with a detailed report of our Superintendent.

Notwithstanding the continued depression in business, and contrary to our expectations, we are glad to state that the receipts show a small increase.

The water rates the past year, exclusive of town appropriation, amount to \$8,850.45.

CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES.

It is with pleasure that we are able to report that there are no claims outstanding against the town for damages for taking the pond, and water rights, or land adjacent thereto.

The last lawsuit of this character was that of Philander Ames against the towns of Malden, Melrose and Medford, which resulted in a verdict in favor of the towns.

With this suit, ended a long and vexatious litigation, and we are now able to give the cost of our valuable franchise.

The whole amount paid out for expenses of suits, damages and costs in the several years, has been as follows:—

Franchise	\$133 33
Land damage in 1872,	\$200 00
“ “ 1873,	1,800 00
“ “ 1874,	23,979 58
“ “ 1875,	6,550 00
“ “ 1876,	700 00
“ “ 1877,	850 00
	34,079 58
	<hr/>
	\$34,212 91

This account has been closed, as will be seen by the report of the Treasurer of Joint Water Boards.

Your Commissioners recommend appropriations for the coming year as follows:—

For hydrants, school-houses, town hall, engine-houses, etc.	\$2,000 00
For maintenance	1,000 00

WATER TAKERS.

Whole number of water takers per register, 1878,	910
Families	840
Apothecaries	2
Aquariums	2
Armory	1
Barber shop	1
Boarding-houses	2
Bake-houses	2
Book-bindery	1
Churches	6
Dining-saloons	2
Engine and hose-houses	4
Fish markets	2
Green-houses	7
Hand hose	265
Henneries	2
Halls	7
Livery and boarding stables	4
Manufactories	5
Ornamental fountains	15
Public drinking fountains	5
Public ornamental fountains	2
Railroad depot	1
School-houses	7
Stores and shops	11
Truck and cart stables	13
Private stables	38
Number water-takers, 1877,	890
Increase over 1877	20

RECEIPTS FOR WATER.

Amount received each year for water rates exclusively,

1870-71 received	.	.	.	.	.	\$3,909 29
1872	"	.	.	.	.	5,141 84
1873	"	.	.	.	.	6,133 88
1874	"	.	.	.	.	7,202 31
1875	"	.	.	.	.	7,882 85
1876	"	.	.	.	.	8,788 93
1877	"	.	.	.	.	8,850 45
Estimated income for 1878,	.	.	.	.	.	8,800 00

CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT.

Cost of Water Works to Jan 1, 1877, as per

last report \$172,618 24

Expended this year as follows:

Boston Machine Co., hydrant	.	.	.	\$40 25
Thomas Cunningham, pipe	.	.	.	195 00
Dalton & Ingersoll, plumbing material	.	.	.	34 00
Thomas McCoubry, sharpening tools	.	.	.	16 25
J. C. Howes, material and labor	.	.	.	40 27
S. E. Benson, cement	.	.	.	14 20
Summers & Hunt, plumbing stock	.	.	.	25 75
Bill for trenching	.	.	.	235 00
E. N. Sargent, boxes	.	.	.	20 40
				<hr/>
				\$621 12

DAMAGES AND SUITS.

Paid J. D. Wilde, Treasurer of Joint Water

Boards \$850 00

\$1,471 12

Cost of Water Works, Jan 1, 1878 . . . \$174,089 36

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT, 1877.

Thos. McCoubry, sharpening tools . . .	\$13 70
New England News Co., ledger . . .	1 50
Malden Commissioners, pipe . . .	18 62
S. E. Benson, cement . . .	10 13
James Worthen, sundries . . .	8 41
Geo. W. Bartlett, use of team . . .	15 00
Babb & Stephens, printing . . .	26 25
C. W. Badger, lead and oil . . .	11 30
Joseph Edwards, painting . . .	2 00
S. M. Spencer, stencil . . .	7 00
Walter R. Phillips, printing . . .	1 75
L. F. Hinckley, brush . . .	1 00
Dalton & Ingersoll, plumbing material . .	39 07
Thomas Cunningham, pipe . . .	111 28
Addison Lane, salary as Supt. . .	900 00
I. C. Weeks, lumber . . .	5 15
Edward Alden, damage to horse . . .	32 00
J. C. Howes, material and labor . . .	51 13
Henry Barron, expressing . . .	10 75
M. C. Warren hardware . . .	6 38
Bills for service pipe . . .	475 84
John Larrabee, services . . .	10 00
C. W. Polk, cloth . . .	1 16
Addison Lane, expense . . .	10 25
J. P. Deering, lumber . . .	48
J. D. Wilde, services as Commissioner . .	50 00
W. I. Ellis, " " . . .	50 00
J. R. Simonds, " " . . .	50 00

 \$1,920 15

Maintenance account brought forward . . . \$1,920 15

1877.

INTEREST ACCOUNT.

April 1, Coupons on \$50,000 bonds, . .	\$1,500 00
July 1, " " 100,000 " . .	3,000 00
Oct. 1, " " 50,000 " . .	1,500 00
1878.	
Jan. 1, " " 100,000 " . .	3,000 00
	<hr/>
	9,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$10,920 15

RECEIPTS.

Received from town for use of water . .	\$2,000 00
" " " " maintenance . .	1,500 00
" " " of Malden, for care of gate-house and repairs . .	266 13
" " Joint Water Boards . .	25 00
" for service pipe	429 21
" " stock sold	33 85
" " notices	60
" " shutting off (penalty) . .	2 00
" on account of water rates, 1877 . .	4,595 71
" " " " " 1878 . .	3,636 92
Total	<hr/> \$12,489 42
Expended as shown	10,920 15
	<hr/>
To credit of sinking fund	\$1,569 27
Of this amount there has been expended for construction . .	1,471 12
	<hr/>
Balance in hands of Treasurer	\$98 15
Furniture, stock and tools on hand, Jan. 1, 1878 :—	
Office furniture	\$200 00
Tools of all kinds	250 00
Stock	374 32
	<hr/>
	\$824 32

J. D. WILDE, Treasurer, in account with MALDEN, MELROSE, AND MEDFORD WATER BOARDS.

DR.		CR.	
1877.		1877.	
Feb.	Balance on hand . . . \$178 93	Feb. 7.	Cash paid J. C. Burdakin . . \$6 00
Dec. 24.	Town of Melrose . . . 750 00	"	" " Stone, Huse & Co. . . 1 25
" 26.	" " Medford . . . 750 00	Mar. 13.	" " Samuel Robinson . . . 5 00
" 26.	" " Malden . . . 750 00	June 5.	" " Melrose Water Board . . 25 00
" 26.	" " Melrose . . . 100 00	Nov. 23.	" " Chas. E. Parsons . . . 80 00
		Dec. 27.	" " E. O. Holmes . . . 35 00
		" 27.	" " D. S. Richardson . . . 200 00
		" 27.	" " E. R. Hoar . . . 650 00
		" 27.	" " Artemus Barrett . . . 150 00
		" 27.	" " B. F. Hayes, services . . 656 50
		" 27.	" " B. F. Hayes, costs . . . 175 08
		" 27.	Balance of costs in establishing high-water mark . . . 130 96
		1878.	
		Jan. 12.	Cash paid A. F. & N. N. Sargent . . 12 00
		"	" " Stamps and stationery . . 2 14
			Balance paid Town of Malden . . 200 00
		"	" " " Medford . . 200 00
			<u>\$2,528 93</u>

"E & O. excepted."

Respectfully submitted,

JANUARY 18, 1878.

J. D. WILDE, Treasurer M., M. & M. Water Boards.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

MELROSE WATER COMMISSIONERS :

Gentlemen,—I herewith submit to you the following report for the year ending March 1, 1878 :—

16-INCH MAIN.

In January of this year a leak was discovered in the main pipe on Wyoming avenue, near Ravine road. The flow of water caused considerable trouble in digging down to the pipe. The leak was found to be in two joints; fortunately both were on top of the pipe, so that by carefully corking them with thin sheet lead they were stopped without shutting off the water

STREET MAINS.

The Street Mains have not been extended since last report. Twelve leaks have occurred, all of which have been repaired at a small expense.

THE POND.

As in years past the Pond has afforded an abundant supply of water of the same excellent quality. It will be seen by the following record that the water was at high-water mark and overflowing at the waste way March 15th. The lowest point reached was Sept. 30, when it was thirty-three inches below high-water mark.

RECORD.

Rise and Fall of the Pond in 1877-78.

1877.

Feb.	28.	The Pond was 15 inches below high-water mark.			
March	10.	4½ inches below high-water mark.			
"	15.	At high-water mark and continued full until June 1st.			
June	3.	1 inch below high-water.			
"	20.	3 inches	"	"	"
"	30.	7	"	"	"
July	10.	10	"	"	"
"	20.	13	"	"	"
"	30.	15	"	"	"
Aug.	10.	20	"	"	"
"	20.	19	"	"	"
"	30.	21	"	"	"
Sept.	10.	25	"	"	"
"	20.	28	"	"	"
"	30.	33	"	"	"
Oct.	10.	28	"	"	"
"	20.	29	"	"	"
"	30.	30	"	"	"
Nov.	10.	26	"	"	"
"	20.	25	"	"	"
"	30.	12	"	"	"
Dec.	10.	7	"	"	"
"	20.	6½	"	"	"
"	30.	7	"	"	"

The lowest point.

1878.

Jan.	10.	4	"	"	"	"
"	15.	Pond full and running over, and continues running over at the present time, Feb. 28.				

HYDRANTS,

One new hydrant has been placed on Porter street, opposite School street, and another moved from Franklin to Vinton street. Two have been supplied with new valves; all have been examined, painted and oiled, and are now in good condition. Whole number of hydrants at present date, eighty-one.

SERVICE PIPE.

Number of new services added the past year, thirty-two.

Amount of pipe laid since last report—

From main pipe to street line	.	.	.	910 ft.	
“ street line to cellar line	.	.	.	1,116 “	
				<hr/>	2,026 ft.

There has also been laid—

1½ inch enamelled pipe	.	.	.	387 ft.	
1 “ “ “	.	.	.	638 “	
				<hr/>	1,025 ft.
Total	.	.	.	.	<hr/>3,051 ft.

STOCK AND TOOLS.

Estimated value of stock on hand	.	.	.	.	\$374 32
Tools of all kinds	.	.	.	.	250 00
					<hr/> \$624 32

Respectfully submitted.

ADDISON LANE,

Superintendent.

MELROSE, Feb. 28, 1878.

TOTAL AMOUNT AND LOCATION OF DISTRIBUTION PIPES TO THE
PRESENT TIME.

STREETS.	FEET OF PIPE.			Hydrants.	GATES.		
	6-inch.	4-inch.	2-inch.		6-inch.	4-inch.	2-inch.
Eleventh	255	.....	.....	.....	1
Third	287	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Main	3784	478	.....	8	2	.....	.....
Green	2700	.....	.....	3	1	.....	.....
Franklin	3155½	.....	.....	4	1	.....	.....
Vinton	3483½	436	.....	5	2	1	.....
Trenton	1233	1331½	.....	1	3	2	.....
Melrose	2339½	.....	1	.....	1	.....
Ashland	1475	.....	2	.....	2	.....
Tremont	3180	.....	2	.....	4	.....
Greenwood	324	.....	.....	.....	.....
Perkins	236	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Baxter	484	.....	1	.....	1	.....
Florence	1340½	.....	1	.....	3	.....
Maple and Poplar	2265½	.....	2	.....	1	.....
Emerson	3977	.....	5	.....	4	.....
Youle	998½	342	1	.....	1	.....
Otis	780	.....	.....	.....	.....
Oakland	1161	.....	1	.....	1	.....
Linden Place	286	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cedar Park	898½	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Laurel	457	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cottage	1142	193	2	.....	2	.....
Hurd	768	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Berwick	1226½	.....	1	.....	2	.....
Herbert	220	158½	.....	.....	.....	.....
West Grove	287½	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Waverley Place	690½	.....	1	.....	1	.....
Foster	1470½	.....	1	.....	3	.....
Myrtle and Lake Avenue	3170	.....	3	.....	5	.....
Winthrop	695½	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Vine	691	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Essex	1437	.....	4	.....	2	.....
Willow	663	.....	.....	.....	.....
Short and Main	470½	.....	.....	.....	.....
Reading Hill	723	1	.....	1	1
Porter	2514½	.....	3	.....	1	.....
School	495	.....	.....	.....	.....
Albion	222	.....	1	.....	1	.....
Pleasant	1125	.....	.....	.....	1
Winter	241	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Charles	335	.....	1	.....	.....	.....

TOTAL AMOUNT AND LOCATION OF DISTRIBUTION PIPES TO THE
PRESENT TIME. — (*Continued.*)

STREETS.	FEET OF PIPE.			Hydrants.	GATES.		
	6-inch.	4-inch.	2-inch.		6-inch.	4-inch.	2-inch.
Bellevue Avenue		100					
Upham		3283		2		2	
Stevens Place			216				
Lebanon		2750		2		1	
Grove		1366		1			
Walnut		187½				1	
Lynde and Linwood		2960		3		1	
Summer		701		2		1	
East Wyoming Avenue		1076				1	
West " "				3			
Chestnut		572					
Mt. Vernon		394		1			
Auburn		372				1	
Winthrop Place		520				1	
Belmont		376				1	
High		376				1	
Prospect		1026		1		1	
Essex and L Avenue		1082					
Avon		422				1	
Elm		1057		1			
Howard		272	550			1	1
Upham and Dell		3488		3		2	
East		534				1	
Washington		760		2			
Irving		387				1	
Emerson Place			251				1
Seventh			288				1
Wastes 27 x 24		51					
80 Plugs		80					
East Grove Street	1865	16		2	1		
East Emerson Street	743½	10			1		
Totals	17,115	60,217	7,577	81	11	63	6

WATER RATES.

DWELLING-HOUSES.

	Per Year.
Occupied by one family, for the first faucet	\$6 00
For each additional faucet to be used by the same family,	2 00
When a house is occupied by more than one family and less than four, one faucet only being used by all, for each family	5 00
When a house is occupied by four or more families and but one faucet is used for all, for each family . .	4 00
Where a house is occupied by more than one family, the highest rates will be charged for each family having water carried into their part of the house.	
For the first water-closet	5 00
For each additional water-closet	3 00
For hopper water-closet	8 00
For first bath-tub	5 00
For each additional bath-tub	3 00
Provided that no private house shall pay more than \$25 per year.	

BOARDING-HOUSES.

For the first faucet	\$10 00
For each additional faucet	2 00
For water-closet or bath-tub when used for boarders .	10 00
Other charges as above.	

Where two faucets are used, one for hot and one for cold water, both emptying into one vessel, but one charge will be made for both.

STORES.

Occupied as office, shop, or similar purpose .	\$6 00 to 20 00
For each additional faucet	2 50
For water-closet or urinal	6 00

· STABLES.

For first horse	\$5 00
For each additional horse	3 00
For first cow	2 00
For each additional cow,	1 00

FOR LIVERY, CLUB, AND BOARDING STABLES.

For first horse	\$5 00
For each additional horse	3 00

The above includes water for washing carriages.

Where hose is used, \$5 additional.

TRUCK AND CART STABLES.

For first horse	\$5 00
For each additional horse,	2 00

The above includes water for washing carriages.

HOSE.

For sprinkling streets, washing windows, and similar uses,	\$3 00
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When several desire to use the same hydrant for watering streets or watering gardens, see Superintendent.

HOTELS.

For each bed for boarders and lodgers,	\$3 00
--	--------

BATHS.

For public baths, and for each bath in any hotel	\$10 00
For water-closet in public bath-houses	10 00

STEAM-ENGINES.

For each stationary steam-engine working not over twelve hours a day, for each horse-power,	\$6 00
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BUILDING PURPOSES.

For every cask of lime or cement used	\$0 05
---	--------

ORNAMENTAL FOUNTAINS.

Ordinarily used three hours a day for a period of not more than four months a year.

For a jet of one-sixteenth of an inch	\$3 00
For a jet of one-eighth of an inch	5 00
For a jet of one-quarter of an inch	8 00

To be cut off at the discretion of the Superintendent.

MANUFACTORIES.

And for all purposes not enumerated in the foregoing rates, special contract to be made with the Water Board.

This schedule of prices was printed in a circular and distributed among the citizens, with this additional note: —

All parties wishing Spot Pond water introduced into their buildings will be required to sign an application for the same; a book for that purpose may be found at the Town Clerk's office.

JOSEPH D. WILDE,	} <i>Water</i>
W. IRVING ELLIS,	
J. R. SIMONDS,	

Commissioners.

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

MELROSE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

REPORT.

The Trustees of the Public Library respectfully present their Seventh Annual Report.

The year has been one of unusual activity in this department, doubtless occasioned to some extent by the continued dulness of trade, and consequent increase of leisure time for reading.

We may congratulate ourselves upon this tendency of the people to increase the fund of their information, and in view of the limited number of volumes as compared with the increase of patronage, we may also congratulate the town upon the wisdom shown in establishing the Library.

It cannot fail to be of marked advantage to its patrons even if we conclude, without special thought, that a majority of readers seek for light literature. The whole quantity included under that term cannot possibly supply the demand, and we are forced to the conclusion upon examination, that our readers comprise, in good part, those seeking courses of reading that will be of durable service, and those that desire the better class of literature.

The Trustees have endeavored to conserve the interests of the town in their selections, and, though they have purchased many volumes exclusively for the young, they have intended by their selections from this class of literature, to instill a love for something better, and have aimed at the exclusion of books that would dwarf the minds, or injure the morals of any of our readers.

In all large collections there are books, considered indispensable, the true worth of which can be best appreciated only by mature minds; to the young their true character cannot be explained; and to insure this class from the injury which may result from indiscriminate reading, is a matter deserving of attention.

We are persuaded that much which has been said against free libraries is said in ignorance of the actual statistics of the circulation of good literature in intelligent communities. Judgment is commonly rendered from the statistics of cities where every novel,

good, bad or indifferent, finds a place upon the shelves in order to make the library complete. We have no such aim, and are not warranted in spending our small appropriation without discriminating, to some extent, in favor of books of permanent value.

In order to make our library a blessing to the homes of Melrose, there must be much discrimination shown by the readers. If it were not for the fact that we feel, morally, under bonds not to increase the number of societies and organizations in Melrose, we would encourage the formation of a Reading Club, such as was organized in Boston, a year or more ago. Put in shape for Melrose, the plan might be as follows: A number of gentlemen and ladies meet at the library and agree to take a specified course in English Literature, or a course in History and Science combined. Lists of the books most serviceable for information would cheerfully be furnished to applicants and the Secretary of the Society would keep a copy of the lists for reference. Once a year only, in the fall, a full meeting would be held, notes compared, and the results of the year's reading ascertained and discussed. New lists would then be handed in for another year's reading, compared and left in the hands of the Secretary.

Thus, with but one working officer, to furnish lists of desirable courses of reading to all new applicants for membership during the year, and with but one evening expended for a Society meeting, a new impetus might be given to general education, and much good result.

A comparison of the results of our reading would lead to closer application to a definite course than is now common, while the creation of a demand for good books, and the awakening of a general interest in the library would be of lasting benefit to the town.

If this plan had not been carried to success without much attendant labor, the suggestions might seem visionary; but as the plan has proved practical, we have no hesitation in commending it to the consideration of the town's-people, and especially the large class of persistent readers, who claim Melrose as a home.

There are three things that may be gained through the public library; first, supplementary education in conjunction with the schools; second, practical encouragement to a continuation of the scholastic habits of reading and study, after graduation from the schools; third, such a collection of books from all classes of literature as will best promote the highest good of the community, at the

least expense to the individual. For the accomplishment of these objects this library presents special advantages; and a careful examination of its contents will reveal its adaptation to the legitimate demands of readers and students.

We annex the statistics for the year, and take this opportunity to extend our thanks to the donors of books, pamphlets and papers, for their various contributions:—

DONATIONS.—*Books.*

Burdett, Everett W.,	1
Howe, F. D.,	2
Joslyn, J. T.,	1
Nourse, F.,	1
Porter, Charles, Mrs.,	18
Wiley, John & Son,	1
	<hr/>
	24

Pamphlets.

Banks, N. P.,	1
Boston Public Library,	6
Bradlee, C. D.,	1
Chicago Public Library,	1
Newton “ “	1
Quincy “ “	1
Tufts College,	1
Wakefield Public “	1
Woburn “ “	1
	<hr/>
	14

Whole number of pamphlets now in library, 149.

Papers.

Jefferson, Daniel,
Publishers,

The Literary World.
The Melrose Journal.

STATISTICS.

Number of volumes in library, March 1, 1877,	3,215
“ “ purchased this year, 390	
“ “ donated “ “ 24	414
“ “ in library, March 1, 1878,	3,629
“ persons using library, March 1, 1877,	2,031
“ cards issued this year, 267	
“ “ relinquished this year, 14	253
Number of persons using library, March 1, 1878,	2,284
Largest number of volumes issued in one day,	407
Smallest “ “ “ “ “ (stormy)	31
Average “ “ “ Mondays,	73
“ “ “ “ Wednesdays and Saturdays,	224
Whole “ “ “ in March,	2,638
“ “ “ “ in August,	1,964
“ “ “ “ in December,	2,441
“ “ “ “ in January,	2,630
“ “ “ “ this year,	27,152
Increase of circulation this year,	3,449

This library year is equivalent to parts of one hundred and fifty-two days, viz.: Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and evenings and Monday evenings, with the exception of the usual holidays, when the library was closed.

The examination just concluded shows the books to be in fair condition; three only are unaccounted for. Three books have been discarded and will be replaced by others. Fifty-two volumes worn out in service have been replaced, and three hundred and eighty-two volumes have been rebound. The rapid increase in circulation may readily be noted from the following statistics:—

Circulation in 1873,	13,580
“ “ 1874,	17,652
“ “ 1875,	22,592
“ “ 1876,	23,703
“ “ 1877,	27,152

The opportunity afforded of securing, at slight expense, litho-

graphic portraits of our eminent American poets, William Cullen Bryant, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and John Greenleaf Whittier, was improved by the Trustees and they have had them neatly framed and hung upon the walls. The likenesses are pronounced wonderfully correct by the poets themselves, and also by many intimate friends. As these gifted men have passed the allotted term of life, it cannot be long ere these pictures will be highly valued; and in the coming years we trust they will serve to encourage our youth to emulate their virtues. Massachusetts may well be proud of this trio of her sons.

With the increase of labor attendant upon the use of the library and the increasing number of books that need to be replaced, comes an increase of current expenses which must be met by the fund. Under ordinary circumstances it would be the part of wisdom for the town to voluntarily enlarge the appropriation, but the exceptional condition of affairs leads us to waive this consideration until a change for the better warrants a decision upon the merits of the case.

For the ensuing year we ask for an appropriation of the sum of four hundred dollars and the dog tax.

Respectfully submitted,

In behalf of the Trustees,

CHARLES C. BARRY,

Secretary.

FREDERICK KIDDER,	}	<i>Trustees.</i>
ELBRIDGE H. GOSS,		
A. A. NICHOLS,		
HANNAH LYNDE,		
CHAS. C. BARRY.		

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF

MELROSE, MASS.

1877-78.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

THOMAS B. PECK, <i>Chairman.</i>	Miss PHEBE A. NORRIS.
LAFAYETTE BURR, <i>Secretary.</i>	Mrs. MARIA W. CURRIER.
MOSES S. PAGE.	Mrs. ANN M. KUNHARDT.

TEACHERS.

ALONZO G. WHITMAN, <i>Principal.</i>	} HIGH SCHOOL.
MARY L. CHARLES	
EMMA A. J. BUGBEE	
FRANCES H. TURNER	FIRST GRAMMAR SCHOOL.
LUCY W. BISBEE	SECOND " " (Emerson St.)
JULIA M. PORTER	" GRAMMAR SCHOOL, (Centre.)
SUSAN D. MELCHER	THIRD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, (Emerson St.)
EMMA M. CATE	THIRD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, (Centre.)
CHASTINE EMERSON	CENTRE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.
LOUISE P. ARNOLD	LYNDE ST. " "
ALICE H. LONG	VINTON ST. " "
CAROLINE E. SOUTHWICK	UPHAM ST. MIXED " "
LYDIA MENDUM	GREEN ST. " "
Mrs. ETTA HALLOWELL	HIGHLAND " "
SARAH E. PRATT	CENTRE PRIMARY " "
MARY M. GILMAN	LYNDE ST. " "
HANNAH F. LEWIS	VINTON ST. " "
Mrs. GEORGIE N. BORDMAN	INSTRUCTOR IN MUSIC.

REPORT.

TO THE CITIZENS OF MELROSE :

By a law of this Commonwealth, the School Committee are required "annually to make a detailed report of the condition of the several public schools, which report shall contain such statements and suggestions in relation to the schools as the Committee deem necessary or proper to promote the interests thereof." In accordance with this law, the Committee submit the following Report :

CHANGES IN SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS.

The average number of pupils in the schools during the year has been 724, an increase of 27 from the average number last year. The number of schools is 15, an increase of one from last year. Attention was drawn in last year's Report to the crowded condition of the Second Grammar School, which then contained 65 pupils (more than can be properly cared for by one teacher), and was likely to be further increased the present year. In accordance with the plan then proposed, it was decided to establish a new Second Grammar School, dividing the town into two districts, separated by the line of Essex St. In order to place a school of this grade in each district, the new school was located in the Centre School Building, the Intermediate School under the charge of Miss Emerson being transferred to the room in the High School Building, formerly occupied by the Third, Grammar School. This rendered it necessary to provide a new room for that school, and for that purpose the eastern half of the hall in the third story of the High School was fitted up for a school-room, a temporary partition having

been erected which can be readily removed whenever the hall is needed for exhibitions. In this way an excellent room has been obtained at a small expense, which is pleasant and easily warmed and ventilated, and only objectionable on account of its elevation. Miss Julia M. Porter was promoted to the charge of the new Second Grammar School, Miss Susan D. Melcher was appointed to the Third Grammar School in place of Miss Porter, and Miss Caroline E. Southwick, of Grantville, was chosen to fill the vacancy in the Upham St. School, occasioned by the promotion of Miss Melcher. The two Second Grammar Schools will admit of considerable increase from the present number of scholars without over-crowding, and will meet the wants of the town in those grades for a long time to come.

The only other change in teachers has been the election of Miss Alice H. Long, of Melrose, to the Vinton St. Intermediate School, in place of Miss Mary E. Norris, who resigned at the beginning of the Summer vacation. Miss Norris had been a faithful teacher in this school since 1873, but her health had become so impaired by attention to her duties as to make it necessary for her to give up her position. Rest did not bring her renewed strength, and we regret to record her death from typhoid fever, in January of this year. Her memory will be kept green in the hearts of her pupils, and of the numerous friends who were attracted to her by her many amiable traits of character.

Two vacancies have occurred in the School Committee by the resignations of Mrs. A. V. Lynde and Mr. S. A. Randlett, Chairman of the Committee. These vacancies were filled by the election respectively of Mr. T. B. Peck and Mrs. Ann M. Kunhardt.

BUILDINGS.

The school buildings are generally in a good condition. The plan inaugurated last year of substituting single for double desks has been carried out and new furniture has

been placed in the Highland and Green St. Schools. All the schools are now supplied with single desks. Ventilators, similar to those already in use, have been introduced into the Highland, Lynde St., and Vinton St. Schools and one room in the High School Building. It may be thought best to introduce them another year into some other rooms in the High School, in which the ventilation is now defective.

It was found that the water from the roof of the High School made its way into the cellar, not only making it very damp, but endangering the foundation. In order to carry off the surface water, it was thought best to lay a concrete pavement in front and also concrete gutters, an improvement which not only removes the danger of undermining, but makes the entrance to the school much more attractive. More of this work can be done to advantage in connection with the other school-houses.

To meet these and other unavoidable expenses it was found necessary to ask for an addition to the Contingent Fund of eight hundred dollars, which was granted at the town meeting in November. Experience shows that an appropriation of at least two thousand dollars is necessary to meet the contingent expenses. The average amount expended for the last nine years has been \$2,563.99, the lowest amount being \$1,766.48, in 1875.

Considerable difficulty has been found in warming the school-houses in the coldest weather. It has been necessary to dismiss many of the schools, as it is certainly unsafe for children to sit in rooms in which the mercury does not rise above sixty degrees. We think the janitors have done all that could be expected to keep the buildings warm with the means at their disposal. In a climate as severe as ours, it is no easy matter to secure a uniform degree of heat in large buildings, but we think much may be done by furnishing outside windows for school-houses which are not supplied with them, and by increasing the means of heating. A larger furnace is needed in the eastern part of the Centre

Building, and it is hoped this want may be supplied during the coming year.

SALARIES.

On account of the reduction of ten per cent. in the annual appropriation for schools, it was found necessary to make a similar reduction in the salaries of the teachers. We should have regretted greatly if this reduction had lost us the services of any of the teachers, and are happy to say that such was not the case. While we feel that the town is the best judge of the necessity of making such a reduction, and that it is not the province of the Committee to express any opinion upon that subject, we would strongly urge the wisdom of a liberal policy towards those to whom is intrusted so important a charge as the education of the youth of the town. How soon the time will come to restore the salaries to the former rate is for the town to decide, but we feel that we should fail to do our duty if we did not express our firm conviction that the present rate of compensation is as low as will secure the services of competent teachers, and that any further reduction would be productive of great injury to the schools.

In 1876-77 Melrose ranked as the 23d town in the State in the amount appropriated for educational purposes, the average amount in this town being \$17.48 for each child between the ages of five and fifteen. As compared with other towns in Middlesex Co. it ranked as the 14th, the neighboring towns of Medford, Somerville and Malden appropriating respectively \$20.28, \$18.33 and \$17.80. This is certainly not an extravagant record, and the returns for 1877-78 will undoubtedly show a smaller average expense in this town, as the number of scholars has increased and the amount appropriated has been smaller. Every bill incurred during the year has been paid, and we begin the new year with a small balance in both the Contingent and School Funds.

TEXT BOOKS.

A few changes have been made in Text Books during the year. It was found that there was a general desire among the teachers of the Grammar Schools for a new book upon grammar. Since the text book prescribed was prepared, great improvements have been made in the methods of teaching grammar, which, under the old system, was too apt to be dry and uninteresting to the young; and in some of the schools, for want of a suitable text book, oral instruction was almost wholly depended upon. After a careful examination of the best books upon the subject, it was thought by the Committee that Swinton's Grammars were best adapted to our wants, and accordingly Swinton's Language Lessons were introduced into the Second and Third Grammar Schools and his English Grammar into the First Grammar School and the High School. By this change no additional expense is incurred by parents, as the books will be gradually introduced as needed by new classes. Munroe's Practical Speller has been introduced, to correspond with the Readers adopted last year. Some changes have also been made in the High School, which will be referred to hereafter.

MUSIC.

Good results have been achieved in this department the past year. A lesson has been given by Mrs. Bordman once a fortnight in each of the schools, except the High School, and her labors have been supplemented by those of the teachers. In view of the fact, that from want of ear or voice, many pupils in the public schools can never excel, or, perhaps, even accomplish anything in music, it might at first appear doubtful whether instruction in music should be made a part of the school work; but experience shows that this objection is not valid. In the case of those who have a natural taste for music, the benefit is undoubted, in giving them opportunities for systematic instruction which many

would not otherwise have ; while, through the power of imitation, a talent is called out in others, which, without this opportunity, might never have been developed or even discovered. But, more than all, the indirect influence of the musical exercises is invaluable to all, whether they are able to join in them heartily or not, by affording a relief from too long continued application to the regular studies, and producing that alertness of mind which is necessary for success in anything. To be convinced of this, one needs only to visit a school during the musical exercises and witness the effect in the bright eyes and smiling faces of the children, and in dispelling the listlessness that is apt to haunt the school-room. For these reasons we regard music in the schools as an actual aid to progress in other studies. Full information as to the work done in this department can be obtained from the interesting report of Mrs. Bordman.

DRAWING.

Some attention has been paid the past year, in the Primary, Intermediate and Grammar schools, to this important branch of education, and gratifying progress made wherever proper time and supervision have been given to it. That the results are not greater and more satisfactory in the advanced classes, may be due partly to the fact that the pressure of other studies, a good degree of progress in which is essential to promotion, leaves the pupil but little time in school for cultivation in this direction. It was fully the intention of your Committee, as indicated in the report of last year, to have the classes as they progressed continue drawing in the High School ; but, as yet, nothing has been done, the course of study as arranged occupying completely the time of our teachers, and the limited money appropriation forbidding the employment of a special instructor in this department. The importance of thus educating the eye and the hand,—of developing the taste for the ornamental and the beautiful,—is readily seen if considered merely as an element of general

education; while its relation to the industrial arts, and to the increased profits of manufactures, makes it worthy of our highest consideration. The hope is cherished by your Committee, that during the coming year the means may be provided and the way opened for its successful introduction into our High School.

DISCIPLINE.

The discipline of the schools, we are happy to say, has caused but little trouble during the past year, and there have been few occasions for any action of the Committee on this subject. We believe heartily in the use of "the law of kindness" in the government of the schools. The right of corporal punishment should be retained, but should be rarely exercised. To the older scholars it is too degrading, while young children can be better governed by other methods. As the traveller in Æsop's fable wrapped his cloak more closely about him the harder the wind and rain beat against him, but opened it to the genial warmth of the sun, so the little child sullenly closes its heart against a harsh word or blow, but opens it gladly in response to a kind word and pleasant smile. The government of the schools should be firm, but all needless harshness should be avoided.

TRUANT OFFICER.

By a recent statute the School Committee of each town is *required* to appoint a truant officer, to aid in enforcing the law relating to attendance upon the public schools. At the beginning of the year Mr. H. W. Cushman was appointed to the office, and has attended to its duties when called upon by the Committee or teachers.

PRIMARY, INTERMEDIATE AND MIXED SCHOOLS.

These schools, with the two exceptions mentioned in the first part of this report, are in charge of the same teachers as last year, and are in a condition satisfactory to the Committee. The teacher of the Primary and Intermediate School has a difficult and important task, requiring a patience, sympathy and tact that are rare gifts. It is the office of the Primary teacher to direct and encourage the little mind in its first conscious efforts to acquire knowledge. She must win the confidence and affection of her pupils or she will accomplish little. Upon her success and that of the teacher of the Intermediate School, in inspiring the child with a love of school and a desire to learn, depends very much the success of the scholar after entering the higher schools. In the Primary School, in particular, we believe it is of less importance *what* a child learns, than that it should learn *how* to learn, and should acquire a disposition to learn.

We would repeat the opinion expressed last year, that the mixed schools, which resemble the district school in containing pupils belonging to both the primary and intermediate grades, and varying greatly in age and progress in studies, present great difficulties to the teacher. The only remedy is to divide the grades, placing each under a separate teacher. As the population of the northern and eastern portions of the town increases, this will become absolutely necessary, probably before many years. The Centre Primary School, at some seasons of the year, is greatly over-crowded, and it will soon be necessary either to divide the school or provide the teacher with an assistant. The town is fortunate in having the services of teachers in these grades who love their work and are well fitted to perform it successfully.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

The efficiency of the Grammar Schools has been much increased by the organization of the new second Grammar School, by which the danger of over-crowding is removed, and the need of double promotions obviated. It is hoped, during the coming spring, to revise the course of study for these schools, not with the view of making any radical changes, but in order to secure perfect uniformity in the studies in the different schools of the same grade. As many of the pupils in the First Grammar School come from remote parts of the town, it was thought best to grant the petition of a large majority of the parents for a single session during the winter months. After the first of April it is proposed to resume the usual plan of two daily sessions, which is believed to be best for the health and progress of the pupils. We should not do justice to ourselves or to the teachers of the Grammar Schools, if we failed to express our appreciation of the faithful and conscientious manner in which they have labored for the welfare of their pupils during the past year, and our satisfaction with the condition of the schools in their care.

HIGH SCHOOL.

An important change in the course of study in the High School was made at the beginning of the present school year. In order to meet the wants of those pupils whose parents felt that four years was a longer time than they wished to keep their children in the school, or who doubted the utility of the study of Latin, it was decided to introduce an English course of three years. It was also thought that the tendency of pupils to drop out of the school might be counteracted in this way.

All scholars are required on entering the school to decide

which course of study they intend to pursue, and are not allowed to make a change without the consent of the Principal. It was found necessary after introducing the English course, to rearrange the college and classical courses so as to make the three courses coincide as far as possible. This has been done by the Committee and Principal; and in order that parents may have an opportunity to decide intelligently between the courses and may know the nature of the work done in the school, and also for the use of teachers and scholars, a chart has been printed, showing the three courses of study in parallel columns. It will be seen that the classical course differs from the English, mainly in the addition of the study of Latin and Ancient Geography and History, while the college course adds such other studies as are necessary for admission to college, especially the Greek language and Latin and Greek Prose Composition. Of the thirty-five scholars who entered the school in September last, twelve chose the English course, six the college, and the remaining seventeen the classical.

Three new studies have been introduced into the school, namely, Martin's Civil Government and Chemistry in the English and Classical courses, and Mineralogy in the English course, while Physiology, lately introduced into the First Grammar School, has been discontinued. We believe the study of Civil Government will be productive of great practical good by acquainting the pupils with our entire system of government, and thereby fitting them to become intelligent and useful citizens. The study of Chemistry, although prescribed for High Schools by the statutes of the Commonwealth, presents great difficulties on account of the lack of suitable apparatus and conveniences. To provide such apparatus and suitable room, would require a considerable outlay, more perhaps than it would be expedient to make at once for a single study, but it is hoped that something may be done in this direction during the coming year.

We take pleasure in expressing our satisfaction with the

condition of the High School. It is doing an invaluable work in supplying the boys and girls of the town with opportunities of education such as but a few years ago could have been obtained only at great expense away from home, and such as many could never have without it. The studies pursued are such as are indispensable to a good education and are thoroughly and carefully taught by the Principal and his assistants. We would ask the attention of citizens to the course of study which is printed herewith. We are especially desirous that the newly introduced English course, which promises to be of great value, should have a fair trial, and to this end would ask the liberal consideration of the town in making the annual provision for the support of the schools.

COURSE OF STUDY OF THE MELROSE HIGH SCHOOL, JANUARY 1ST, 1878.

	COLLEGE COURSE, 4 YEARS.	CLASSICAL COURSE, 4 YEARS.	ENGLISH COURSE, 3 YEARS.
1st YEAR.	Bradbury's Algebra, to Greatest Common Divisor.	Bradbury's Algebra, to Greatest Common Divisor.	Bradbury's Algebra, to Greatest Common Divisor.
1st Term.	Payson, Duntou & Scribner's Book-keeping.	Payson, Duntou & Scribner's Book-keeping.	Payson, Duntou & Scribner's Book-keeping.
	Allen & Greenough's Latin Grammar, and Leighton's Latin Reader.	Allen & Greenough's Latin Grammar, and Leighton's Latin Reader.	Martin's Civil Government.
2d Term.	Algebra, to Section XV.	Algebra, to Section XV.	Algebra, to Section XV.
	Book-keeping, completed.	Book-keeping, completed.	Book-keeping, completed.
	Latin Grammar and Reader.	Latin Grammar and Reader.	Civil Government, completed.
3d Term.	Algebra, to Affected Quadratic Equations.	Algebra, to Affected Quadratic Equations.	Algebra, to Affected Quadratic Equations.
	History of England: Freeman's Historical Course.	History of England: Freeman's Historical Course.	History of England: Freeman's Historical Course.
	Latin Grammar and Reader.	Latin Grammar and Reader.	Swinton's English Grammar.
4th Term.	Algebra, Reviewed.	Algebra, reviewed.	Algebra, reviewed.
	History of England, completed.	History of England, completed.	History of England, completed.
	Latin Grammar and Reader, completed.	Latin Grammar and Reader, completed.	English Grammar, completed.
2d YEAR.	Algebra, completed.	Algebra, completed.	Algebra, completed.
1st Term.	Cesar's Commentaries, Book I.	Cesar's Commentaries, Book I.	Norton's Elements of Physics.
	Goodwin's Greek Grammar, and Leighton's Greek Reader.	Martin's Civil Government.	Bocher's Otto's French Grammar & Reader.
		Hart's Rhetoric: Longfellow's Evangeline.	Hart's Rhetoric: Longfellow's Evangeline.
2d Term.	Bradbury's Geometry, Book I.	Bradbury's Geometry, Book I.	Bradbury's Geometry, Book I.
	Cesar, Book II and III.	Cesar, Books II and III.	Physics, completed.
	Greek Grammar and Reader.	Civil Government, completed.	French Grammar and Reader.
		Rhetoric: Irving's Sketch Book.	Rhetoric: Irving's Sketch Book.
3d Term.	Geometry, Books II and III.	Geometry, Books II and III.	Geometry, Books II and III.
	Cesar, Book IV, and Review.	Cesar, Book IV, and Review.	Elliot & Storer's Chemistry.
	Greek Grammar and Reader.	Ancient Geography and History of Greece, History Primers.	French Grammar and Reader.
		Rhetoric: Irving's Sketch Book.	Rhetoric: Irving's Sketch Book.
4th Term.	Geometry, Books IV and V.	Geometry, Books IV and V.	Geometry, Books IV and V.
	Sallust's Catiline.	Sallust's Catiline.	Chemistry, completed.
	Greek Grammar and Reader.	History of Rome, History Primers.	French Grammar, to Part II, and Reader.
		Rhetoric: Whittier's Snow Bound.	Rhetoric: Whittier's Snow Bound.

3D YEAR. 1st Term.	Norton's Elements of Physics. Sallust, completed. Xenophon's Anabasis, Book I. Greek Grammar.	Physics, completed. Cicero's Orations against Catiline, I and II. Anabasis, Books II and III. Greek Grammar.	Norton's Elements of Physics. Sallust, completed. Böcher's Otto's French Grammar & Reader. English Literature: Shakespeare.	Dana's Geology, by notes. French Reader, completed, and Grammar. Brooke's Primer of English Literature: Chaucer.
2d Term.	Physics, completed. Cicero's Orations against Catiline, I and II. Anabasis, Books II and III. Greek Grammar.	Physics, completed. Cicero's Orations against Catiline, I and II. French Grammar and Reader. English Literature: Shakespeare.	Lockyer's Elementary Astronomy. Home l'auvre. English Literature: Milton.	
3d Term.	Antient Geography, and History of Greece, History Primers. Cicero's Orations, III and IV; Latin Prose Composition. Anabasis, Book IV. Greek Grammar and Greek Prose Composition.	Eliot & Storer's Chemistry. Cicero's Orations, III and IV. French Grammar and Reader. English Literature: Spencer.	Gray's Lessons in Botany. French Grammar: Les Fables de La Fontaine. Physical Geography. English Literature: Study of Authors.	
4th Term.	History of Rome, History Primers. Cicero and Sallust, reviewed; Latin Prose Composition. Anabasis, reviewed. Greek Prose Composition.	Chemistry, completed. Cicero and Sallust, reviewed. French Grammar, to Part II, and Reader. English Literature: Dryden or Pope.	Botany, (Practical Analysis.) French Grammar, completed: La Fontaine, completed. Mineralogy, by notes. English Literature: Study of Authors.	
4TH YEAR. 1st Term.	Homer's Iliad, Book I. Virgil's Æneid, Books I and II. Böcher's Otto's French Grammar and Reader. Latin and Greek Prose Composition.	Dana's Geology, by notes. Virgil's Æneid, Books I and II. French Reader, completed, and Grammar. Brooke's Primer of English Literature: Chaucer.	Scholars are required, on entering the School, to select the Course of Study which they intend to pursue, and will not be allowed to make a change without the consent of the Principal. Regular Exercises in Reading, Declamation, and Composition are continued through each Course.	
2d Term.	Iliad, Book II. Æneid, Books III, IV and VII. French Grammar and Reader. Latin and Greek Prose Composition.	Lockyer's Elementary Astronomy. Æneid, Books III and IV. French Grammar: Le Roman d'un Jeune Homme Pauvre. English Literature, Milton		
3d Term.	Gray's Lessons in Botany. Æneid, Books V, VI and VIII. Iliad, Book III: Latin and Greek Prose Composition. French Grammar and Reader.	Gray's Lessons in Botany. Æneid, Books V and VI. French Grammar, Les Fables de La Fontaine. English Literature: Study of Authors.		
4th Term.	Botany (Practical Analysis.) Æneid, reviewed, and Book IX. French Grammar, to Part II, & Reader. Reviews.	Botany, (Practical Analysis.) Æneid, reviewed. French Grammar, completed: La Fontaine, completed. English Literature: Study of Authors.		

CATALOGUE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL, FEBRUARY 1, 1878.

First Class.

ISABELLA BACON.	LUCY CORA SELEE.
NELLIE BELLE DAMON.	NELLIE M. STRATTON.
*MINNIE LOUISE FARNESWORTH.	CLARA B. TROWBRIDGE.
EMMA J. GRUNDY.	MARY E. UPHAM.
ANNA MAY JONES.	†WILLIAM ANDREWS DOLE.

Second Class.

LOUISE ISABEL DRAKE.	MINNIE LOUISE WOODMAN.
HANNAH J. GIBBONS.	ARTHUR M. BURR.
MARY ALICE JONES.	†GEORGE R. JONES.
MINNIE CLIFFORD KIMBALL.	GEORGE W. MANSFIELD.
ADA ESTELLE LOWE.	EDWARD C. MORGAN.
MARY AGATHA RORKE.	EDWARD B. STANTIAL.
AMY M. STANTIAL.	CHARLES HENRY WASHBURN.
RUTH CUSHING STETSON.	†WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS.

Third Class.

EMMA S. ATWOOD.	FRANK R. BROWN.
†ABBIE ELIZABETH AVERILL.	HERBERT W. CHANDLER.
*FANNIE M. BROOKS.	JOSEPH R. GIBBONS.
FLORENCE M. ELLIS.	†HENRY J. HERSEY.
HELEN AGNES FOSTER.	MARK S. W. JEFFERSON.
ANNIE P. LONG.	HENRY E. JOHNSON.
MARY LYNDE.	BENJAMIN B. JONES.
*INEZ ENDORA MERRILL.	ELMA F. LEWIS.
ISABELLA PAUL.	C. GIFFORD MERRILL.
NELLIE PERKINS.	FRANK W. STONE.
A. FLORENCE STILPHEN.	GEORGE E. WHEELER.
A. JOSEPHINE VINTON.	JOHN WHOWELL.
EMMA A. WEEKS.	

Fourth Class.

MARY E. BUFFUM.	CORA L. TOPPAN.
*DELIA F. BURNS.	LIZZIE A. WYMAN.
*MARY A. DUFFY.	ALFRED H. ALDRICH.
HATTIE E. DAMON.	*HENRY A. BOARDMAN.
*CORA DUTTON.	†CLARENCE A. BACKER.
*MATTIE M. E. GILMAN.	WINSLOW S. COBB.
*M. ALICE GOSS.	*DANIEL DOWD.
†MABEL L. GOSS.	HENRY DRAKE.
LILLIAN C. HALL.	FRANK A. MORSE.

*LIZZIE V. HASKELL.

*HELEN M. LEAVITT.

†JOSIE H. LOVEJOY.

NELLIE A. MANSFIELD. *

FLORENCE A. PICHARD.

*ELLA F. ROBINSON.

*FANNIE L. SNOW.

ANNIE M. SPRAGUE.

ETTA D. TRAFTON.

L. HERMAN MYRICK.

WINFIELD P. PIERCE.

†CHARLES L. SIMMONS.

†OTIS T. STANTIAL.

WILLARD T. STETSON.

*UNION B. TWITCHELL.

WILLIAM B. WEBSTER.

†WILLIAM R. WOODBURY.

*English Course. †College Course.

Those not designated take the Classical Course.

Average rank of 1st class,	.	.	86.4
" " " 2d "	.	.	85.3
" " " 3d "	.	.	80.8
" " " 4th "	.	.	74.8

THE HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM.

Considerable attention has been given of late to the subject of High Schools and much criticism has been bestowed upon them. It has been questioned whether it is the duty of towns to support schools of a higher grade than the Grammar Schools, and the studies pursued are stated to be "ornamental," rather than practical, and of little value to the scholars. In view of these circumstances your Committee have thought it proper to say a few words upon this subject.

High Schools are organized under the Second Section of Chapter 38 of the General Statutes, which reads as follows:

An Act Concerning the Establishment of High Schools:

SECT. 2. Every town may, and every town containing five hundred householders shall, besides the schools prescribed in the preceding section, maintain a school to be kept by a master of competent ability and good morals, who, in addition to the branches of learning before mentioned, shall give instruction in general history, book-keeping, surveying, geometry, natural philosophy, chemistry, botany, the civil polity of this Commonwealth and of the United States, and the Latin language. Such last-mentioned school shall be kept for the benefit of all the inhabitants of the town, ten months, at least, exclusive of vacations, in each year, and at

such convenient place, or alternately, at such places in the town as the legal voters at their annual meeting determine. And in every town containing four thousand inhabitants, the teacher or teachers of the school required by this section, shall, in addition to the branches of instruction before required, be competent to give instruction in the Greek and French languages, astronomy, geology, rhetoric, logic, intellectual and moral science and political economy.

It will be seen that the law is very definite as well as comprehensive in its requirements ; and, while it remains in force, it should be carried out by the towns in the spirit as well as the letter. Those towns in which the law is most faithfully carried out, will have the best High Schools. But, passing over the legal view of the case, is it not *right* that towns should furnish to all who desire it, the kind of education to be obtained in the High Schools? It seems to us right for many reasons. For its own protection and preservation the State *must* educate the young, and it must furnish that sort of education which the young need to fit them for useful and responsible positions in life. The education furnished by the Grammar Schools is, and must be, too elementary to meet this demand. It is limited by the age of the pupils. To require those who wish their children to have the advantage of a higher education than that of the Grammar Schools to meet the expense themselves, is to place an impassable barrier between the wealthy and those of limited means.

It may be that too much is attempted in the High Schools, that all the studies pursued are not of equal value, and that some of the studies are chiefly of use as a means of mental discipline ; but, before any radical change is made, it will be well to consider carefully what is, and what is not, *truly* practical. If those studies only are practical which are of direct use in earning a living, then let all others be discarded. But if, as we believe, a true definition of practical studies includes all that enlarge and discipline the mind, strengthen the powers of reasoning and observation, acquaint the scholar with the facts of history and the laws of nature, and open

countless new avenues of interest and happiness; then let our courses of study be made as broad as they can be, without overtaxing the strength or confusing the mind of the pupil.

The remarks of Hon. J. W. Dickinson, Secretary of the Board of Education, in his last Annual Report, are well worthy of consideration. He says:—

“A further argument in favor of maintaining High Schools at the public expense, may be made, in showing that they serve to give increased efficiency to the elementary schools below them. * * * By the standard they establish for admission to their classes, and the opportunities they offer for a higher education, the High Schools determine what the lower schools shall do, and they everywhere stimulate pupils to remain in the lower schools until what is required has been accomplished. * * * The existence of High Schools in towns renders it possible for the boys and girls to obtain that part of their education which pertains to culture at home. During that period of a child's life when his character is forming, he should be at home, under the wise control of home authority. * * * *I consider the High Schools to be the crowning excellence of our Common School system;* and that they may be as efficient as possible, I would recommend to those who have the direct control of them, that they guard against introducing into their courses of study more topics than can be mastered in the time assigned to the course, and that the topics chosen be those that will lead the student to acquire the most useful information, and, at the same time, be the occasion of the greatest amount possible of mental discipline.”

GENERAL REMARKS.

The town of Melrose has the reputation of having good schools. How shall the standing of the schools be maintained, is a question that should interest every citizen. We will mention three ways in which this end can be accomplished. First, by making liberal appropriations for the support of the schools. Good schools can be obtained by having good teachers, good school buildings and suitable

conveniences for teaching ; and these cannot be had without a liberal expenditure of money. We ask for liberality, not extravagance.

Secondly, by giving encouragement and support to the teachers. This can be done by occasionally visiting the schools, thereby making yourselves familiar with the methods pursued, and increasing your own interest and that of your children ; by requiring regularity of attendance and diligence on the part of your children, and by such other means as circumstances suggest.

Thirdly, by giving similar encouragement to the Committee. Friendly criticism is always welcome ; suggestions will be gladly received, and will draw attention to matters that might otherwise escape notice ; while a spirit of fault-finding and complaint soon discourages the most enthusiastic, and increases the difficulties of a position, which at the best is sufficiently arduous.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS B. PECK.

For the Committee.

SCHOOL REGULATIONS.

SECTION 1. The schools shall commence during the year at 9 A. M. and 2 P. M., closing at 12 M. and 4 P. M. No extended session allowed.

SECT. 2. The school year shall consist of forty weeks, commencing on the first Monday in September, and closing on the last Friday in June.

Vacations shall occur during the school year as follows:—

Close of Fall Term, from the Saturday previous to the annual Thanksgiving to the Monday following.

Close of Winter Term, from the second Saturday to the third Monday in February.

Close of Spring Term, from the fourth Saturday in April to the first Monday in May.

Close of Summer Term, end of school year.

Also, all legal holidays.

SECT. 3. Teachers shall be in their school-rooms fifteen minutes before the opening of the school, admitting pupils, commencing exercises promptly at the hours specified.

SECT. 4. Teachers *themselves* shall hear all recitations.

SECT. 5. Teachers are not to absent themselves from school, or procure substitutes without the consent of the committee. All such absences are to be distinctly recorded in the school registers, and the chairman of the committee notified of any unavoidable violation of this rule.

SECT. 6. Teachers are required to report all damages to school property, unless repairs are immediately made at the expense of parent or guardian.

SECT. 7. "The several school teachers shall faithfully keep the registers furnished to them, and make due return

thereof to the School Committee; and no teacher shall be entitled to receive payment for services until the register, *properly filled up and completed*, shall be so returned."* A fortnight's notice required of resignations, except in case of sickness.

SECT. 8. In case of inclement weather, when, in the judgment of the committee, it shall be thought proper to omit the forenoon or afternoon session, notice will be given by ringing the town bell at a quarter before 8 A. M. or a quarter before 12 o'clock, A. M.

SECT. 9. Teachers may temporarily suspend pupils from school for truancy or gross violation of rules, informing the committee at once of such suspension, and the reason therefor.

SECT. 10. Pupils must attend schools in the district in which they reside; must be at least five years of age, and obtain a permit, before entering, from the committee. *Alphabet* scholars admitted only at the beginning of a term.

SECT. 11. Pupils are required to furnish themselves with such text-books as are authorized by the committee. In case of refusal or neglect, the books will be furnished by the committee, and the town assessors be notified, that the value may be collected from the parent or guardian. Orders sent by teachers to the town agent must have the name of the parent or guardian. Books furnished to indigent scholars shall be considered the property of the school, and be retained when the pupil is discharged.

SECT. 12. Pupils shall not be dismissed before the close of the school (*alphabet classes excepted*) without a written request from the parent or guardian. Frequent and repeated requests can be disregarded, and the committee informed of the evil. Parents shall be notified of absences or tardiness of pupils when explanation or information is deemed necessary.

SECT. 13. Pupils absent a term, *or not present at the*

* Extract from Revised Statutes.

quarterly examinations, shall be considered new pupils, liable to lose their connection with their class, and needing on their return a permit from the committee (alphabet scholars excepted).

SECT. 14. Pupils shall have a recess of twenty minutes at each morning session, and no pupil will be allowed to leave the school-grounds without a special permit from the teacher.

SECT. 15. Pupils guilty of defacing or injuring school-houses, school-furniture, outbuildings, fences, or school property in general, shall be subject to such penalty as the statute prescribes or the committee deem proper.

SECT. 16. Pupils are not allowed in school-yards after school-hours, Wednesday or Saturday afternoons, or during holidays or vacations; are not allowed in other school-yards than their own, at any time, unless sent with messages.

SECT. 17. The duties of the several janitors shall be to sweep each school-room and entry twice every week; wash the floors and windows during each of the vacations of May and November; clean and wash all outbuildings as often as necessary; keep steps and paths free from snow in winter; close gates when schools are not in session; report to teachers or committee all injuries to property; prepare and put in the coal and wood, practise rigid economy in its use, and have a general oversight of the buildings in their care. No extra pay for any of the above services.

SECT. 18. No wares or amusements shall be advertised in the schools without the consent of the committee.

SECT. 19. Teachers shall read to the pupils at such times as they deem expedient, any or all of the foregoing Rules and Regulations.

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

For the year ending February 9, 1878.

SCHOOLS.	NO. PUPILS FEB. 1, 1878.	AVERAGE NO. FOR THE YEAR.	AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.	PER CENT. OF ATTENDANCE.	AVERAGE AGE FEB. 1, 1878.	
					Yrs.	Mos.
High, First Class	10			95.5	17	6
Second Class	16			97.6	16	10
Third Class	25			97	16	2
Fourth Class	35			97	15	6
Whole School	86	84	81	97.1		
First Grammar	42	47	46	98	13	5
Second Grammar (Emerson St.)	43	72	65.25	94	13	5
Second Grammar (Centre) . .	41			93.9	13	3
Third Grammar (Emerson St.)	46	46	41.6	90.4	11	11
Third Grammar (Centre) . .	51	47	46	95.2	12	6
Centre Intermediate	50	45	43	95	9	7
Lynde St. Intermediate . . .	40	40	38.25	91.7	10	6
Vinton St. Intermediate . . .	54	47	45	96	9	9
Upham St. Mixed	30	31	27	87	9	6
Green St. Mixed	49	53	44	85.5	8	6
Highland Mixed	49	47	35	81	8	1
Centre Primary	62	66.5	59	88.5	7	3
Lynde St. Primary	48	43.5	43.5	96	7	7
Vinton St. Primary	55	55	51	97	7	2
TOTALS	746	724	665.6	92.4		

NOTE.—The percentage of attendance in some of the lower schools has been reduced by the prevalence of scarlet fever.

REPORT ON MUSIC

IN THE

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MELROSE,

BY

Mrs. Georgie N. Bordman,

MUSICAL INSTRUCTOR.

REPORT.

MELROSE, Feb. 1, 1878.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the School Committee:

It becomes my pleasant duty to present the second annual report on Music, in the public schools of Melrose:—

CENTRE PRIMARY, VINTON ST. PRIMARY, LYNDE ST. PRIMARY.

The time in this department I have been obliged to devote almost entirely to Rote Songs this year, owing to the large proportion of very young children, who can readily imitate, but are not yet old enough to comprehend, musical notation, or reading at sight.

The advanced pupils in the first division are, however, progressing well in the common rudiments, and the reading of simple black-board examples. I believe in cheerful, invigorating motion-songs, marching exercises, patriotic, wide-awake choruses, and every style of soul-stirring music, that will make the cheeks rosy with enthusiasm, and carry away the little folks for a time, from the confinement of the school-room and the brain-perplexing multiplication table. I am convinced that this plan, properly tempered or interspersed with rudimental work, *will create a lasting delight in the study of music*, as the mind develops and advances in the higher grades. With this conviction, I am constantly endeavoring to infuse fresh ambition by the selection of music which will draw out the voices, and inspire the children to sing from pure delight and love of it.

CENTRE INTERMEDIATE, VINTON ST. INTERMEDIATE, LYNDE ST.
INTERMEDIATE.

The first step from the Primary to this grade, opens the way to new rules and difficulties. The transposition of the natural scale,

the introduction of accented notes, change of signature, and cultivation of higher tones, can only be taught by simplest illustrations, and continual repetition on the part of the instructor. The hours have been carefully spent here, and show most excellent results. *Purity of tone and accurate time* characterize the work especially,—which is a sufficient gratification and reward for the long hours of discipline.

SECOND GRAMMAR, THIRD GRAMMAR, CENTRE GRAMMAR.

Here the harmony of two and three-part songs develops with great rapidity. By the promotions this year, the strongest altos and sopranos seem to be centered in these schools, and the division about equal. I have spent many hours out of school work, in gathering the compositions of the best authors, and selecting the most advantageous and appropriate songs for present and future use; some of which have already been given to two classes and memorized with good taste and expressions. *The Grammar Schools are an honor to the town*, and the earnestness which pervades the school-room during the music lesson, lightens my labors so much that I can easily forget the responsibility of the teacher, and imagine myself a visitor, most delightfully entertained by “a singing host, whose wealth of song bespeaks a brilliant future.”

FIRST GRAMMAR.

This school deserves special mention, because of *the difficulties in change of voice*, which are liable to overtake the boys at this age. The determination with which the class have endeavored this year to make the most of every good opportunity for advancement, is more than commendable, and the evidence speaks for itself in the tasteful rendering of many choruses, which have only been acquired by continued practice and patience. The study of three and four-part songs, brings the pupil at once in contact with many of the chief obstacles in harmony and rhythm; and so, standing with an unmanageable voice between two tones, and struggling with an interval which is bound to go the wrong way, I think such boys deserve my hearty support, vocally, for their courage and persever-

ance. Much credit is also due the girls, who not only sustain their own parts, but help the weaker ones over frequent stumbling-blocks, which are unavoidable at this age of school experience. I felt very desirous to introduce a new book in this grade at the commencement of the fall term, but as many already owned the "Hour of Singing," I decided to go on with the same work another year.

HIGHLAND MIXED, GREEN ST. MIXED, UPHAM ST. MIXED.

I am still using one-part songs in these schools, owing to the primary classes. The voices are improving steadily every month, and I find much more natural ability among the older pupils than last season. In the absence of singing books, blackboard work monopolizes much time in this department. The music lesson seems a welcome hour, and the children look happy and refreshed when play-time comes, and the seats are vacated for the marching songs. These schools, which are on the outskirts, demand my best efforts to enliven the ambition and desire to learn "more pretty songs," and do the best they can.

A musical instructor must have the cordial co-operation of all the teachers in order to meet with success. In this respect I have received hearty assistance and friendship from all directions, and I am continually encouraged and sustained in every effort by this fact, viz.: that *the teachers of Melrose are thoroughly alive to the importance of music*, and the necessity of being wide awake and well informed upon the present standard of excellence toward which we are all aiming.

Along the shining row of happy faces that fill the school-rooms, I sometimes see a little child whose scanty clothes and subdued manner tell me of all that dreadful absence of necessary home comforts which poverty brings to the young and innocent. How often have I seen a merry, joyous song bring a sudden thrill of pleasure to such a little heart, and watched the happy thought bubbling up and out through the large eyes and pinched cheeks, and heard a sweet, small voice piping its notes with the rest. *If a simple song* can lift one such little soul out of its comfortless body for a moment, and make the poor bird forget that its feathers are torn and beaten by the storms of adversity, *what may not music do* for all those in prosperity, who have strength equal to their

requirements, and healthy brains to appreciate what is offered for their intellectual enjoyment in the future? I believe there is no power so potent and so productive of real happiness and satisfaction, as *music in the school-room*.

Fully appreciating the approval and encouragement extended to me by the Committee, and still feeling the same earnest interest for the progress of music in the public schools, I remain,

Very respectfully,

MRS. GEORGIE N. BORDMAN,

Musical Instructor.